ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES

for Murea
12.08.77

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1977

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The ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB meets on every first SATURDAY of the month from 10 am to 1 pm at the Romanian Library, 200 East 38th Street, corner of 3rd Ave., New York City, N.Y.

Postal cards NOT listed or NOT illustrated in the ROMANIAN CATALOGUE

by GEORGE PATAKI

The Romanian catalogue (reviewed in our previous issue) is an excellent reference work, but its chapter II about postal stationeries, is far from complete. In 35 pages it was not possible to cover all the postal cards, money orders, envelopes, etc. issued in more than 100 years. We will present a few items not listed in the Romanian catalogue, or listed but not illustrated and fully described. Due to shortage of space we will show only the upper part of the card.

Fig. 1

In the category of "not listed at all", Fig.1 shows a postal card issued in 1941 (Higgins & Gage #102) when the provinces of Bucovina and Bessarabia were reunited with Romania. This card (147x104 mm, blue on yellowish paper) has a printed stamp similar to Scott #528. It was used not only in the regained territory (lost again after WW II) but across the country.

Fig. 2

Another postal card (Fig.2) was issued during WW II in 1943 (H & G #107), when the Romanian army occupied temporarily Transdniestria, a part of the Soviet Union, located East of the river Dniester This card (147x104 mm, brown on yellowish paper) exhibits a printed stamp similar to Scott #517. This stamp, along with a couple of other sets issued during WW II, are neither listed nor iluustrated in the Romanian catalogue.

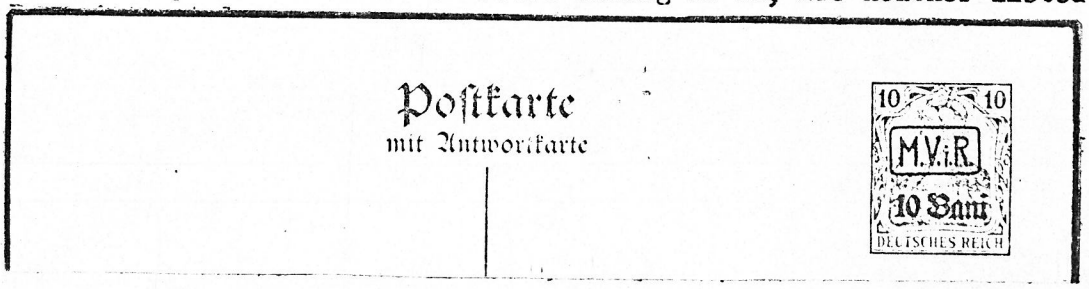


Fig. 3

One group of postal cards not listed are the ones used in 1917-18 when the German army occupied part of Romania. The German stamps with the same overprints as on the printed stamps of these cards, are listed in chapter V under "Foreign posts in Romania". These cards (140x90 mm) are carmine on cream paper with the printed stamp overprinted in black. Fig.3 shows a double card with a "Response card" attached to it; the postally used cards are separated. The printed stamp is like Scott 3N1, but the value is 10 pf overprinted with 10 bani.

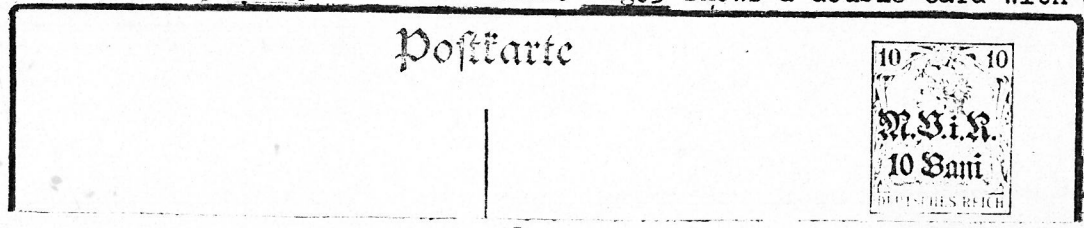


Fig. 4

Fig.4 shows a single card with the printed stamp similar to Scott #3N4.

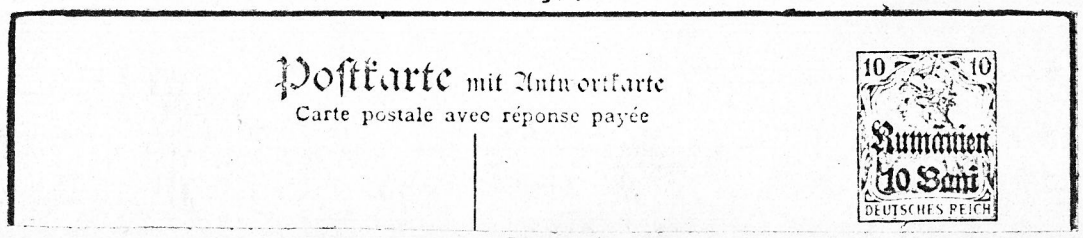


Fig. 5

Fig.5 shows a double card with a prepaid "Response card" attached to it. Most of the used cards are separated. The 2 cards have no perforation between ther

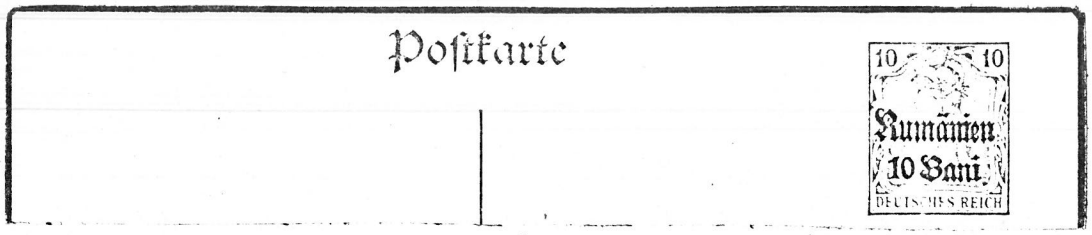


Fig. 6

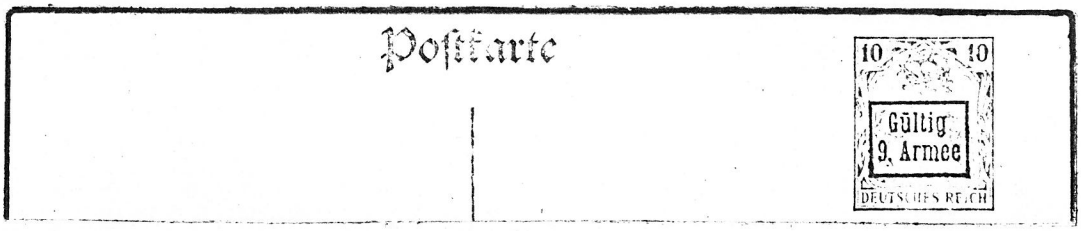


Fig. 7

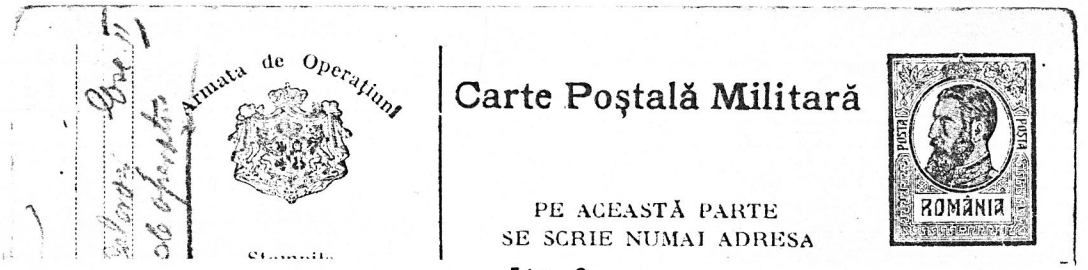


Fig. 8

Fig. 9

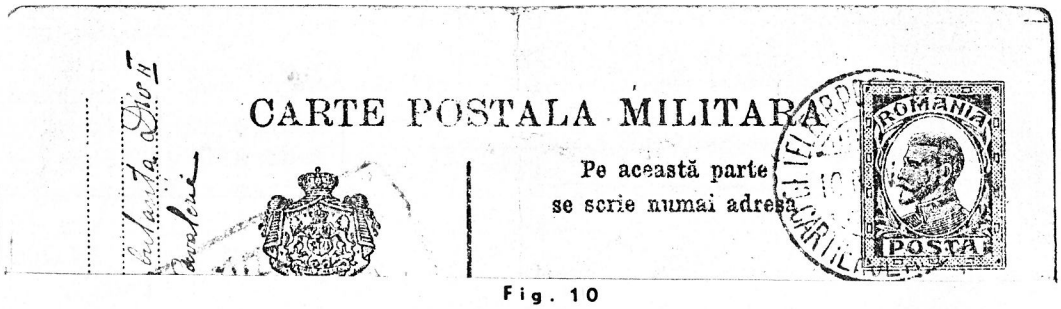


Fig. 10

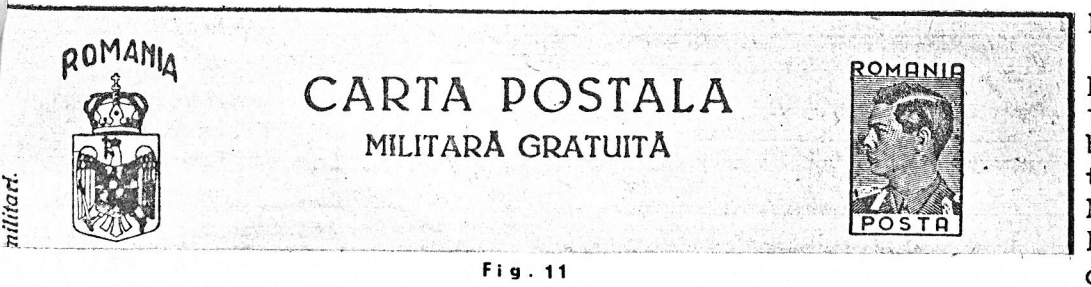


Fig. 11

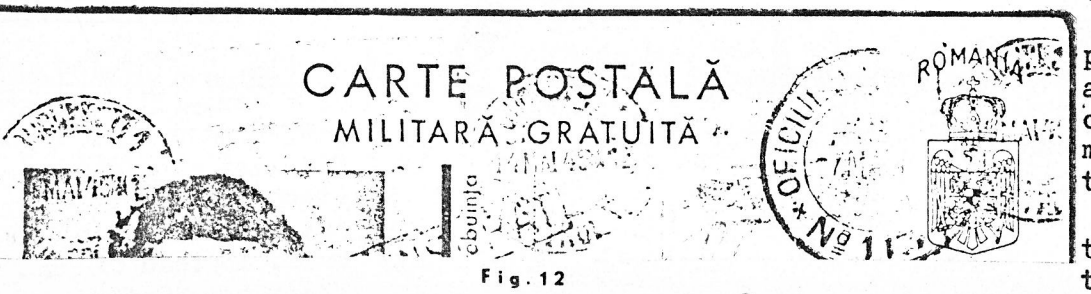


Fig. 12

Fig.6 is a single card with the same printed stamp as on the previous card (Scott #3N9).

Fig.7 is a single card with a printed stamp like Scott #3N13.

All these cards are listed by Higgins & Gage under Germany. When postally used, these cards have in addition to the postal cancellations, interesting war censorship markings.

Another group of "not listed at all" consists of the free postal cards used by lower grade military personnel, mostly during war periods.

These cards are not listed neither by Higgins & Gage nor by the Romanian catalogue, despite the fact that they are official government issues.

Fig.8 shows a free postal card from WW I (140x90 mm, black on white paper). The effigy on the printed stamp is that of King Carol I and there is no value on the stamp.

Fig.9 shows a variety of the previous card (137x90mm, black on thin white paper) with a very poor printing.

Fig.10 shows a free postal card (137x91 mm, black on white paper) used during and after WW I. The effigy on the printed stamp is that of King Ferdinand (nephew of the previous king) and there is no value on the stamp.

Fig.11 presents a free postal card used during WW II (147x106 mm, blue on cream paper with a light blue-turquoise 20x147 mm diagonal bar). The effigy on the printed stamp is that of King Michael I, the grandson of King Ferdinand and the son of King Carol II.

Fig.12 shows another free postal card used during and after WW II (147x97 mm, brown on white paper) with a 47x65 mm photograph of King Michael the last of Romanian monarchs

while Higgins & Gage list the paid military postal cards the Romanian catalogue does

Fig. 13

Fig. 14

Fig. 15

Fig. 16

Fig. 17

not list them at all.

These cards were cheaper (for example 1 leu) than the regular cards (2 lei) used in the same period, but they could be used only by the military personnel.

Here are some items of this group:

Fig.13 (150x117 mm, pale violet on cream paper) is Higgins & Gage #79. The printed stamp looks like Scott # 323 and 353. It was issued in 1928, a year after the 6 years old Michael became king.

Fig.14 (147x115 mm, lilac on white paper) is H & G #91. The effigy on the printed stamp is that of King Carol II the son of King Ferdinand and the father of King Michael.

Fig.15 (149x105 mm, lilac on yellowish paper) is H & G #100. This card was issued in 1941, a year after Michael became king again. The effigy on the printed stamp is that of King Michael I in military uniform.

Fig.16 (149x105 mm, lilac on cream paper) is H & G #109. The effigy is that of King Michael I and because of the inflation the new value is was increased to 3 lei.

Fig.17 (147x105 mm) is a semi-illustrated postal card (H & G # 82) with a printed stamp like Scott #326 but with the value of 6 lei instead of 5 lei. There are 25 similar

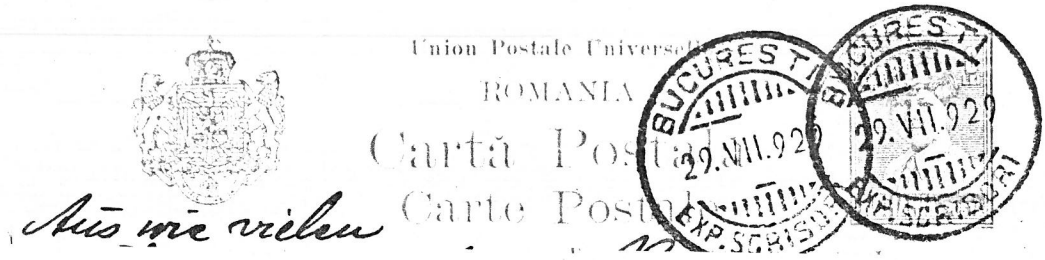


Fig.18

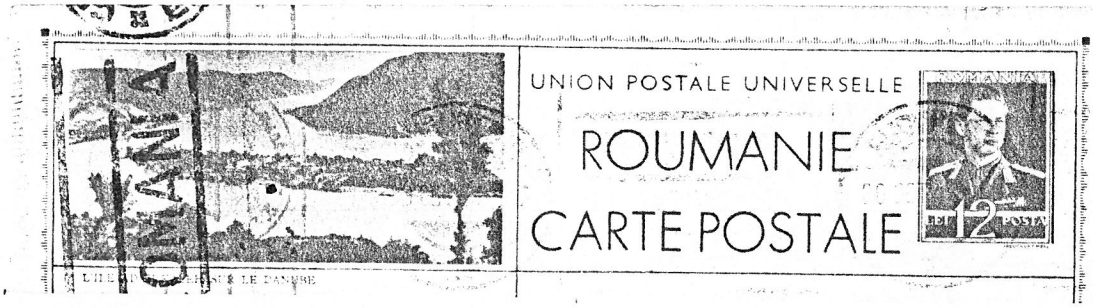


Fig. 19

Fig. 20

Fig. 21

Fig. 22

Fig. 23

cards with 25 different views from Romania.

Fig.18 (148x105 mm, red-brown on white to cream paper) is an international card (H & G #81) with the printed stamp like Scott #320 but in red-brown instead of black and with 6 lei instead of 25 bani.

Fig.19 (149x106 mm, dark red on yelowish paper) is a semi-illustrated postal card (H & G #105) with the printed stamp like Scott #511 or #548 but in dark red instead of blue. There are 14 similar cards with 14 different views.

Fig.20 (147x105 mm, carmine on yellowish paper) is a double card with a pre-paid answer card attached to it (H&G #108). The printed stamp on both cards have the value of 9 lei overprinted in black for 4.50 lei.

Fig.21 to Fig.27 are all cards in the same group; listed but not illustrated. They are approximately 147x115 mm in size and the paper varies from white to cream.

Fig.21 (H & G#101) issued in 1941, is a blue card with a value of 4 lei.

Fig.22 (H&G #104) issued in 1942, is a blue card with a value of 5 lei.

Fig.23 (H&G #110) issued in 1943, is also a blue card with a value of 9.50 lei. That time, besides th additional postal stamp (to compensate the rate increases) the use of a postal tax stamp was required.

Fig. 24

Fig. 25

Fig. 26

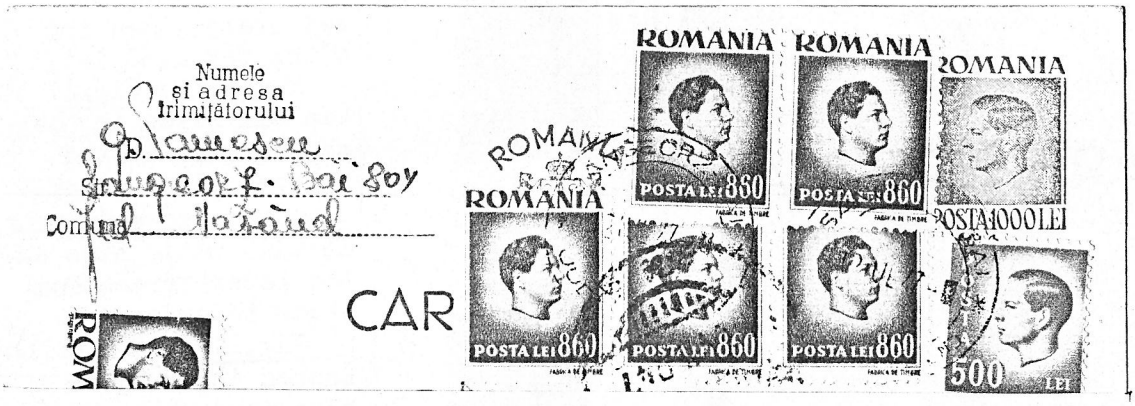


Fig. 27

Fig.24 (H & G # 112), issued in 1944, is a gray-violet card with a value of 10 lei.

Fig.25 (H & G # 113), issued in 1945, is a gray-blue card with a value of 20 lei.

Fig.26 (H & G # 116), issued in 1947, is a brown-violet card with a value of 140 lei.

Fig.27 (H & G # 118), issued also in 1947, is a brown-violet card but with the highly increased value of 1,000 lei.

On the postal cards of this period, as the inflation progressed, more and more adhesive stamps had to be applied in addition to the constantly increasing values of the printed stamps.

There are more postal cards than we presented here, as well as other items of postal stationeries like money orders, telegrams, etc. not listed or not illustrated in the Romanian catalogue. We hope that the next edition of the otherwise excellent catalogue, will list and fully describe everything ever issued by the Romanian postal authorities.

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

World War I, Ninth (German) army overprints on Romanian stamps.
Types? Forgeries? Cancellations?
Harold Strong, Box 15027, Waikiki Station, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815.

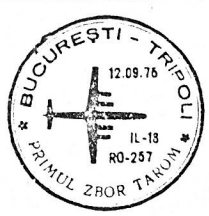
Postal history, Romanian involvement in WW II: Eastern front and Western front.
Postcards, covers, cancels, censor markings.
George Pataki, 34-24 76th Street, Jackson Heights, N.Y. 11372.

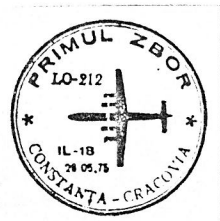
AERO - PHILATELY: Cancellations of 1975 by ALEXANDRU BARTOC

From FILATELIA No. 5/1976

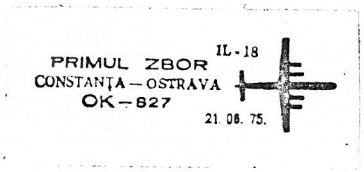
TAROM, the Romanian airline and other airlines landing in Romania inaugurated in 1975 new air routes, and introduced new types of airplanes, more modern, faster and larger.

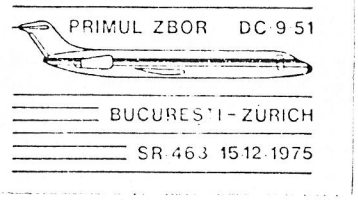
On July 3, 1975, TAROM opened the air route Bucharest-Damascus-Kuwait (flight #RO253) and on July 16, 1975, the route Bucharest-Amman (flight #RO-255) using BAC-1.11 planes.





Sept.12, 1975, was the day of the first flight on the Bucharest-Tripoli route (flight # RO-257). On Dec.5, 1975, the longest air-route in the Romanian aviation history was inaugurated: Bucharest-Athens-Karachi-Peking (flight #RO-311), more than 11,000 km, with Boeing 707's.





Aeroflot introduced on April 7, 1975, a new type of plane, TU-154 on the Moscow-Bucharest-Moscow route (flight #SU-152) and Air-Algerie opened on April 15, 1975, the Algiers-Belgrade-Bucharest route with Boeing 737's (flight #AH-3235).

To satisfy the growing interest in visiting the Romanian seaside, Lot, the Polish company inaugurated on May 26, 1975, the route Cracow-Constanta (flight #LO-212) with IL-18 planes. On June 21, 1975, the Czechoslovak airline CSA opened the Constanta-Ostrava line (flight #OK-827).

On Dec.15, 1975, Swissair introduced the Douglas 9-51 planes on an inaugural flight (#SR-463) on Zurich-Bucharest route.

All of these first flights were celebrated by using aero-philatelic cancels made by the Bucharest chapter of the Romanian Philatelic Association. The cancels show: the flight route, the date of the first flight, the type of plane and the flight number.

It should be mentioned that for the 40th anniversary of the first flight on the Bucharest-Craiova-Timisoara-Arad route, two special cancels and Air Mail envelopes were prepared. On this occasion, a special flight was organized by TAROM.

The aero-philatelic cancels and the covers mailed by the above mentioned flights, and also the arrival cancels, constitute testimonies and will record for future the aviatic events of our days.

Summary of **filatelia** nr. 2 — 1977 journal of the Romanian Philatelic Association.

New Romanian stamps.
Romanian peasantry - on stamps.
The new "Coat of arms of the counties" set.
A symposium on maximum cards at the "Italia '76" exhibition.
How should a stamp exhibition be visited.
Kaleidoscope: curiosities from the world of stamps.
Philatelic news: stories behind the stamps.
Letters to the editor and the answers.
New issues of the world.
Reviewing the foreign philatelic press.
News from various Romanian stamp clubs.
Exchange offers and addresses in Romania and abroad.

FILATELIA

an informative monthly publication in Romanian, can be ordered from ILEXIM, Press Dpt., Calea Grivitei No.64-66, P.O.Box 136-137, Bucharest, Romania, for $8.00/year ($12.00 Air Mail and Registred).

The ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES can be obtained free of charge at the trading sessions of the Romanian Philatelic Club of New York, or obtained by mail (50¢/copy) from its publisher: Miron Abramovici, 209 Berger Street, Somerset, N.J. 08873.

Review: CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STUDY OF THE ROMANIAN ESSAYS

by EDOUARD COHEN

Published in French in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1945, 90 pages of text and 21 full pages of illustrated plates. The author describes more than 150 sets of essays and proofs of Romanian stamps from the first ones issued in July 1858, to the one issued on June 8, 1938.

The essays for postal stamps are listed separately, as are those for postal tax stamps, telegraph, official documents, parcel post, postage due, even for some of those issued during the 1917-18 German occupation.

Every set is explained, describing the paper, the value and the color of every stamp, and if the project was approved or rejected. The plates illustrate 168 different types of essays, thus helping in their identification.

The Romanian essays are not listed in the Scott catalogue. The Romanian stamp catalogue mentions some of the approved ones. We reproduce above some of the rejected essays.

The ROMANIAN PHILATELIC LIBRARY has the following books and publications:

Yearly collections of the Romanian magazine FILATELIA (R)
Romanian Stamp Catalogue, by Kiriac Dragomir & Aurel Surpățeanu, (R)
The first Romanian postal stamps, by Val. Tebeica (G)
Postal cancellations used in Romania until 1881, by Gr. Racoviceanu (R)
Philatelic studies, by C.Spineanu, E.Morgenstern, Gh.Florescu (R)
Romania, specialized catalogue 1918, by D. & F. Russel (E,G)
Documents of the Romanian posts, vol.I Moldavia by J. Wertheimer-Ghika (R)
" " " " " vol.II United Principalities " " (R,F)
Philatelic ABC by Lucian Belcea (R)
Philatelic guide 1969 (various articles) (R)
" " 1970-71 " " (R)
Philatelic Almanach '77 " " (R)
The novice philatelist's handbook, by Ernest Morgenstern (R)
What is a postal stamp, by Gr. Racoviceanu (R)
Several catalogues from Romanian exhibitions (R) and many more.

Most of these publications are in Romanian (R), some in German (G), English (E), French (F), etc. There are easy to understand, specially the catalogues, even for those who lack proficiency in a foreign language.

These books, magazines, catalogues, etc. can be borrowed on every meeting day of the ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB, on the first SATURDAY of the month, from 10 am to 1 pm at the Romanian Library, 200 East 38th Street, corner 3rd Ave, New York, N.Y.

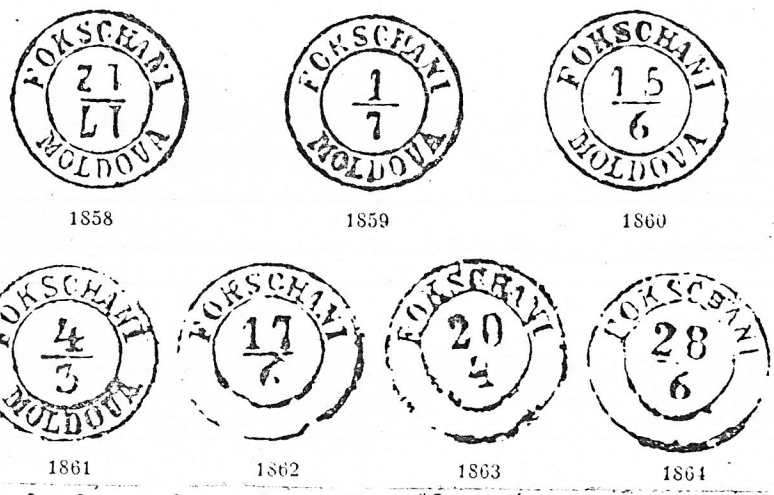
Review: "ROMANIAN POSTAL HISTORY"

by Jacques Wertheimer - GHIKA

The book has 80 oversized pages (8½x11 inches) with lots of self-explanatory illustrations and was published in West Germany in 2 editions: German and Romanian.

About half of the book brings forth alleged evidence that the 6 parale Moldavia-Walachia stamp, Scott #20 (typographed from plates) was postally used. This theory is contradicted by other researchers and the catalogues don't even give price quotation for a cancelled stamp.

The second half of this publication gives a pictorial history of the cancels used in Moldavia from 1858 to 1865. The author reproduced these cancel marks in chronological order for the following cities: BAKEU, BERLAD, BOTUSCHANI, DOROHOJ, FOFSCHANI, FOLTITSCHENI, GALATZ, HUSCH, JASSY, MICHALENI, PIATRA, ROMAN, TEKUTSCH, T.FRUMOS, T.NEAMZU, T.OKNEI, WASLUI, giving several pictures for each year. Checking these cancels it can be observed that as the time passed, the canceling devices became deteriorated by use, getting cracked and bent. Sometimes they were repaired and this also can be seen on the marks made on stamps and envelopes.



The book can be ordered for $8.00 (indicating the desired edition: German or Romanian) from Traudel Burkert, Permanederstrasse Nr.47, 8 Munich 45, Federal Republic of Germany.

Review: ALMANAHUL FILATELIC '77

Published in Romanian by "Rompresfilatelia", Bucharest, 240 pages, 17 lei. It can be ordered ($3.00) from ILEXIM, Press Dept., Calea Grivitei 64-66, P.O.Box 136-137, Bucharest, Rom.

This first philatelic almanach published in Romania has a little bit for everybody; it is a collection of articles by various writers on most diversified philatelic subjects. In addition to the 4 editorials by executives of 4 different authorities connected with philately, many articles have editorial tendencies.

A great deal of articles are about certain topics on stamps like peace, women, youth, soccer, olympics, railroads, scientists, astronautics, medical doctors, etc.

There are many short stories and anecdotes; some real, some fictional. Some of the real ones have small inaccuracies like the one about a building in New York City located at the intersection of 15th Avenue with 23rd Avenue (in New York City the avenues run parallel and do not intersect) or about some stamps sold in America for 1000 liras (instead of dollars).

The almanach contains poems, epigrams, cartoons, crossword puzzles, even a short theatrical play, all on philatelic themes. There are a few interesting articles like "Romanian stamps with wrong inscription", "Romanian participation at stamp exhibitions, at home and abroad", "Metered slogan cancellations from the city of Arad", "Brancusi, simplicity and essence", "Essays, reprints, errors, forgeries and specimens", "Maximum cards", etc.

A very extensive (27 pages) well documented study is "United Principalities; Moldavia-Walachia with a detailed historical background.

There are many uninformative, pretentious but boring articles and 49 full pages of advertisments having nothing to do with stamp collecting.

The paper is thick and stiff and the binding is bad; some pages have the inclination to leave the book. The next edition can only be better.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES on Romanian philately and postal history are requested for publication. The materials, typed single spaced on one side of 8 1/2" X 11" (standard size) white paper, leaving 10 mm margins on the top and on the bottom, 15 mm on the left and right sides, with illustrations well reproducible on Xerox, should be sent to the Editor.

Every article published in this bulletin can be reproduced by any other publication provided that credit is given to the author and the ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES.

Review: THE FIRST ROMANIAN POSTAL STAMPS by VAL. TEBEICA

Published in Bucharest, Romania, in 1962, in several languages: Romanian, Hungarian, French, German, etc., 213 pages plus 26 full page plates. The best Romanian postal history work but is sold out.

The first chapter starts with the communication system of ancient Dacia, a land conquested by the Romans almost 2,000 years ago, located where Romania is today. It continues with the postal services in the XIV-XVIII centuries, then in the principalities of Moldavia and Walachia.

The first issue of Moldavia, with a lot of historical, statistical and technical data is well described on 47 pages. There is a list of all known stamps (by the author), mint and cancelled (Scott #1-4), showing the collection they belong, auction houses they were bought from, and most important the type of cancellation (if any) with the date and city. The 26 plates give photo reproductions of a large number of these stamps, some on letters, others on fragments or off paper, making it easier to identify a certain stamp or cover.

The second issue of Moldavia (Scott #5-10) is described on 25 pages, again in great detail, with lots of photo-illustrations. Above we present some samples of blown-ups.

The Moldavia-Walachia sets (Scott #11-21) have been devoted 65 pages of postal history with photo-copies of official governmental letters, tables with quantities of stamps supplied to and returned from various post offices, demonstrating (among other facts) that the 6 parale stamp, typographed from a plate (Scott #20) could not have been postally used.

The graphical details of the illustrations help to differentiate between the 1862 issue (printed with single dies) and the 1864 issue (printed with a plate of 40 dies).

The next section describes the prince Cuza set (Scott #22-27) with enlarged illustrations emphasizing the characteristic signs of every stamp. Historical circumstances, quantitative data and the description of some forged covers make this chapter very useful.

For someone who studies the first Romanian stamps or wants to make sure that he is getting his money's worth when buying the expensive items of these issues, this book is invaluable.

Summary of **filatelia** journal of the Romanian Philatelic Association.

nr. 3 – 1977

Danube posts and ship cancels used in Romanian ports at the beginning of the 20th century.
Topical collecting: ornamental fishes.
Personal "number cancels" used by mailmen in the city of Jassy.
Currencies used in Moldavia and Walachia before the introduction of LEU and BANI.
Kaleidoscope: curiosities from the world of stamps.
Philatelic news: stories behing the stamps.
Letters to the editor and his answers.
New issues from all over the world.
Reviewing the foreign press, News from clubs, Exchange offers, etc.

Review: HISTORY OF THE ROMANIAN POSTAL STAMPS by Petre Murea

Published in Romanian, in Timisoara, Romania, in 1938; 375 pages with many illustrations. This is a most informative reference book on practically every field of Romanian philately and postal history. It starts with the historical circumstances of issuing the first stamps of Moldavia, then continues with most of the sets issued till 1938, giving background information, describing varieties, reprints, forgeries, etc.

Besides postal stamps, described in detail are official stamps, postage dues, telegraph, parcel post, postal tax for various purposes, metered postal stamps, etc.

There are chapters on Romanian occupation of Transylvania, Budapest (Hungary), Pocutia (South-West part of Galicia), Banat, (all in 1919) and the German, Austrian, Bulgarian occupation of Romania (1917), and the Romanian posts in Constantinopole in 1895 and 1912

There is an extensive chapter on postal stationeries, describing in details the various types of postal cards (with "response paid", letter cards, military cards, etc), wrappers, money orders, international response coupons, envelopes with embossed stamps, etc.

One section presents essays and proofs and another section illustrates and explains a large number of cancellations used in Romania.

As an example, since the 2 Moldavian sets of stamps had the wrong inscription PORTO instead of FRANCO, in 1859 canceling devices of various shapes with the word FRANCO and the name of the locality were placed in use.

These cancels were used also with the Moldavia-Walachia stamps even they had the correct inscription, FRANCO.

Finally, there is a chapter on foreign posts in Romania: Austrian, Russian, French and Greek (consular post offices).

Much of the information included in this work can not be found in other reference books.

A ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP is currently being organized BY MAIL by the Romanian Philatelic Club of New York. The coordinator is PETER M. LEIBOWITZ, 218-10 36th Ave, Bayside, N.Y. 11361. Those who are undertaking studies in any particular field of Romanian philately or postal history are requested to send him a description of their work. If there are several people studying the same problem, all will receive the names and addresses of the others, so they can get in touch DIRECTLY and exchange information.

Anybody desiring additional information should send in the questions; members of the study group who specialize in Romania and have access to the ROMANIAN PHILATELIC LIBRARY will try to find the answers. A self addressed stamped envelope will be appreciated.

The more difficult questions will be published in this bulletin.

Philatelists who reside in the New York metropolitan area are invited to attend the sessions of the ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB (in the Romanian Library, 200 East 38th St, corner of 3rd Avenue, New York, N.Y.) on every first Saturday of the month, from 10 am to 1 pm.

Review: Historical details of the GREEK post offices in MOLDAVIA - WALACHIA and SOULINA

by Sophocles G. Nicolaïdes

Published in Athens, Greece, in 1972, in Greek and English, 22 pages, $3.00 from : Roger Koerber, 605 Northland Towers West, Southfield, Michigan 48075 (stock No. AC21).

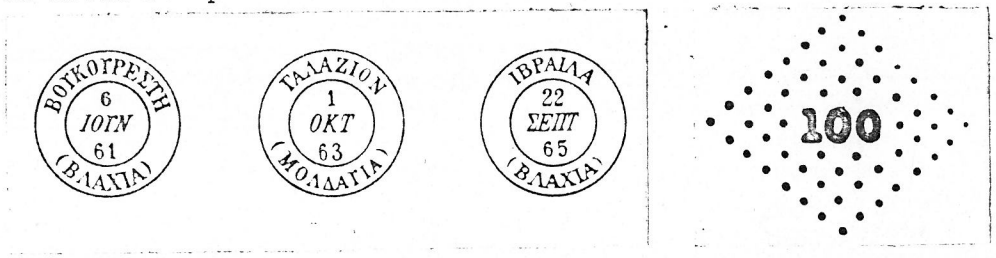
The author reproduces 16 official diplomatic dispatches and gives supplementary explanations on the history of establishing, running and finally closing down the Greek consular post offices in the cities of BOYKORESTI (Bucureşti), GALAZION (Galaţ), IBRAILA (Brăila) and SOULINA (Sulina). As shown, the Greek consulate tried even to establish a similar post office in Jassy but was turned down by the Moldavian prince.

Here are the approximate dates of opening and closing of these post offices:

BOYKORESTI	Sept. 1857	- Dec.	1863
IBRAILA	Sept. 1857	- March	1866
GALAZION	Jan. 1860	- March	1866
SOULINA	Sept. 1871	- Aug.	1875

In the booklet are also described the cancellations used by these consular post offices; the concentric circles type and the dotted rhombus type with an identification number inside. These numbers were: 100 for GALAZION, 101 for IBRAILA, 102 for BOYKORESTI and 133 for SOULINA. Currently used Greek stamps were affixed on the letters mailed through these consular post offices.

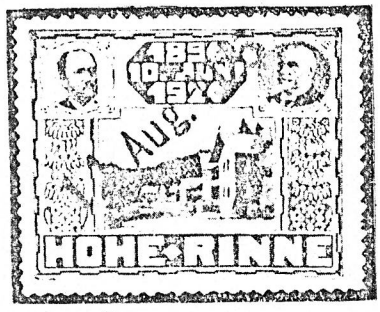
Here we reproduce some of the cancellations as presented in the "Romanian Stamp Catalog" (pag.540). The concentric circles are 21 and 12 mm in diameter. The rhombic type (introduced in 1861) has 64 dots (8 by 8) minus the ones covered by the number. Stamps and letters with Greek consular post office cancel marks are quite rare.



Review: The history of the private post offices and their stamps on the present teritory of Romania by LUDOVIC DENGEL

Published in Sibiu, Romania, in 1947, 54 pages in Romanian, sold out.

This is the most complete work on local posts (hotel posts) of Transylvania, a large Romanian region, which before WW I was temporarily under Hungarian administration. The author spent a lifetime right in the heart of this district, and had access to a lot of philatelic material, archives for research, and first hand testimonies. He presents quite a lot of information and many photographs of stamps, cancel marks and postcards mailed through these post offices.



The first chapter is on the hotel post PĂLTINIŞ (HOHE RINNE) in Sibiu county, which operated from 1895 to 1926 using 9 different issues of stamps and special cancels.

The second chapter is on the hotel post BISTRA in Alba county, which operated from 1909 to 1912, using 2 values of one kind of stamp.

The third hotel post described is the one from MĂGURI in Cluj county, in operation from 1903 to 1912, using 2 values of a similar stamp, without its own cancel.

Finally presented is the KUSTENDJE-CZERNAWODA (1867-1871) local post, used on the Danube Black Sea Railway (D.B.S.R.) between Constanţa and Cernavoda, using one single stamp.

The Scott catalogue makes no mention of these stamps but the "Romanian Stamp Catalogue" describes them in details, giving a great deal of facts and figures.

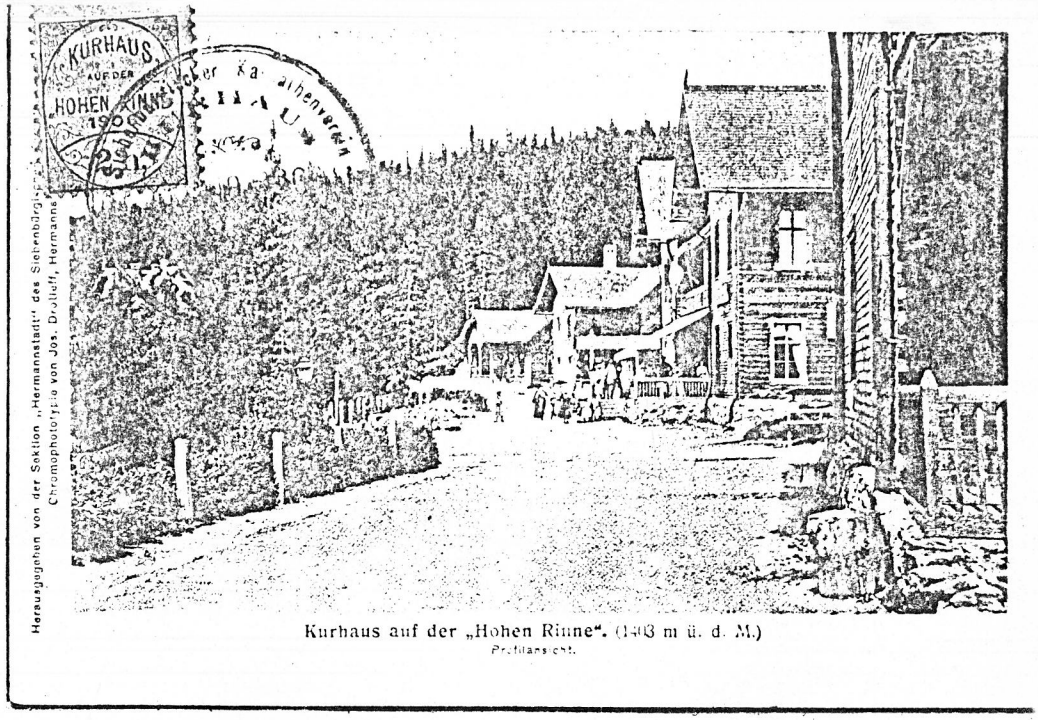
Letters and postcards with local posts are difficult to come by and are expensive.

HOHEN RINNE

This illustrated postcard was mailed on Aug.10, 1908, from the HOHEN RINNE resort village to SIBIU. In accordance to rules, the postage tax from HOHEN RINNE to the nearest post office had to be paid by applying a "hotel post stamp". From there to destination, the postage was paid by applying the usual stamp issued by the government.

Often the hotel post stamp was applied on the illustrated side of the postcard and canceled with the resort hotel's own cancel.

On this card is a 2 heller stamp from the 1906, 6th issue.



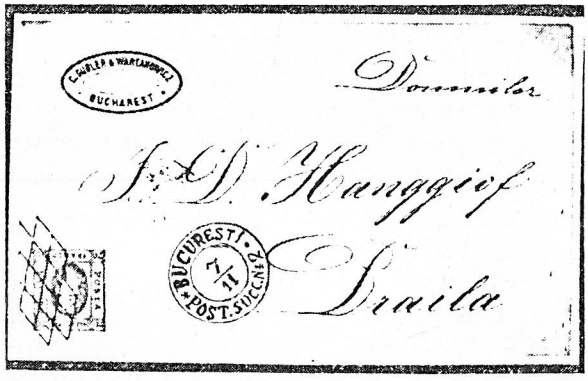
Kurhaus auf der „Hohen Rinne". (1403 m ü. d. M.)

The First Rumanian Branch Post-Offices

By Paul Hirsch

NEXT to making a find of some rare or interesting item in material bought as a relatively inexpensive lot must surely rank something which has been present in one's collection for some time and about which new facts come to light. Recently, I showed my collection of early Rumania to an acknowledged expert in this field and he recognised a cover which, it would appear, is only the second of its kind.

The illustration shows a cover of 1865 sent from Bucharest to Braila, both in the Rumanian province of Wallachia. It is franked with a single red 20 parale stamp of the Prince Cuza issue. This was the standard postal rate for ordinary



letters sent from one town to another within the country. Incidentally, at this time the stamps of the country were not valid for other than internal mail. The grill post-mark in the shape of a St. Andrew's cross which cancels the stamp is the standard one issued to many offices and varying only slightly from town to town. In this instance, it was struck in black.

The cover gains its main interest from the double circle bearing the legend " BUCURESTI 7/11 POST. SUCC. No. 2 ". Expanded from its abbreviation and translated, this denotes Bucharest's 2nd Branch Post-Office. This mark is struck in blue-green; the circles measure 26/15 mm. and the height of the lettering is 2·5 mm. The line between the figures indicating the day and month is 9 mm. in length and the circles are decorated by two six-pointed stars.

The story behind the four branch offices, subsidiary to the central office designated as No. 1 (although this number did not appear on its datestamps) is interesting. They were opened towards the end of July 1865 and closed during February 1866. They were created both to serve the general public and its postal needs, and also, by allowing the Ministry of the Interior under whose auspices postal services were run, to control the quickest means of communication thereby attempting to restrain political unrest. At first, the branch offices accepted only registered letters, packages and telegrams but at the beginning of November 1865 the role of the offices was extended to a variety of other services including the acceptance of ordinary letters.

Concerning the use of the postmarks illustrated, this was in accordance to an official circular stating that the stamps were to be cancelled by the grill in black ink and that the branch-office's circular datestamp was to be applied to the letter in blue-green ink, from a separate pad, in the lower left-hand corner. Letters were then ready to start their journey to their destination via the Central Post Office.

This circular datestamp, therefore, is not found as a cancellation on a stamp; it has, however, been recorded on " Return Advice Receipts " (forms sent with letters and then returned to the sender to confirm the correct delivery) and also on the official documents, invoices, submitted regularly by each branch-office to the Central Office detailing the letters, parcels and registered mail dealt with each day.

The four offices, No. 2, 3, 4 and 5 were closed six months after they were opened, on the day of the forced abdication of Prince Cuza. The staff of these offices were left without employment, having been singled out as devoted servants of the deposed head of state. The relatively small number of letters sent during this brief period, the absence of these marks on stamps (as distinct from covers) and the lack of interest in postal history in the earlier days of collecting, explain the rarity of these items.

It remains for me to acknowledge the debt I owe Dr. L. N. Cristea in drawing my attention to the cover which lay dormant in my collection and to his help in translating a recent article on this subject giving greater detail than I have attempted to reproduce here. (*Filatelia*, Bucuresti, October 1975; K. Dragomir, " Primele 'Birouri Sucursale' din Romania ").

We express our thanks to STAMP COLLECTING (England) for the permission to reprint this article (from the Feb.12, 1976, issue).

What is wrong with this cover ?

George Pataki

This cover depicts the complete set of Boy Scouts stamps issued on July 8, 1934, on the occasion of the Mamaia Jamboree (Scott #B44-49).

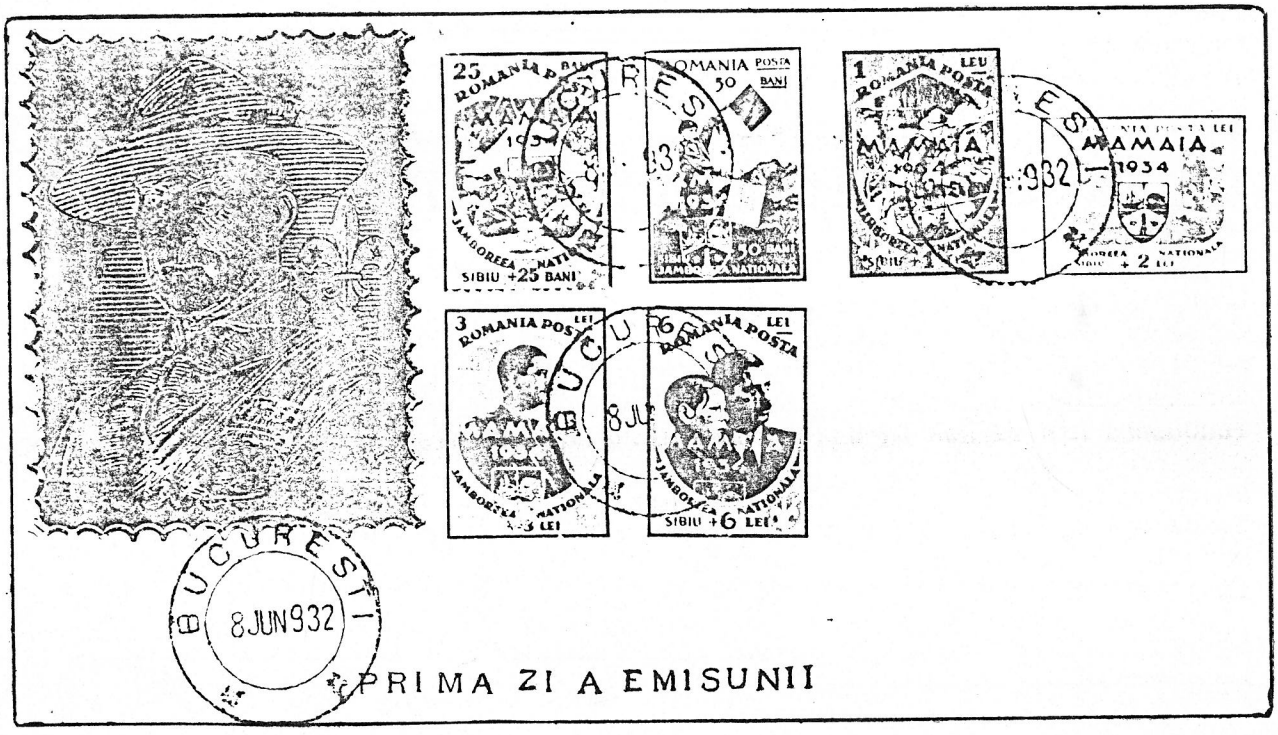
The stamps consist of the Scott #B31-36 semi-postals, issued on June 8, 1932, for the National Jamboree in Sibiu, overprinted in black or gold for the later event.

The cover claims to be a FDC, being stamped as such across the bottom, "PRIMA ZI A EMISUNII", which translated in English is "The fisrt day of issue".

The golden-green cachet on the left presents the image of Sir Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Boy Scouts organization.

There appear to be several answers to the title question:

1. The stamps are cancelled with a BUCURESTI cancel, date 8 June, 1932, applied over the MAMAIA 1934 overprints. Compared to known originals, both stamps and overprints appear genuine. There would be no reason to forge the overprints, since the overprinted set catalogues lower than the original 1932 issue. In conclusion, the cancellation can be considered to be fake.



2. The first official FDC issued by Romania was released on Jan.21, 1949. The first privately prepared FDC was issued on Oct.1, 1947 (The XVII A.G.I.R. Congress, Scott #B370-373). The above cover's claim to be a FDC is therefore inconsistent.

3. The last word at the bottom of the cover is mispelled, an I is missing. The correct spelling is "EMISIUNII". It is highly probable that the forgery was executed abroad.

4. Sir Robert Baden-Powell was well known in Western Europe and on the American continent but was virtually unknown in Romania. This fact strenghtens our belief that the cover was forged outside Romania.

The cover is evidently a fake, and we can only keep wondering how many similar fabrications are still around.

A very extensive ROMANIAN PHILATELIC BIBLIOGRAPHY was compiled by DON HELLER, a noted researcher of Romanian philately and postal history. Published in Philatelic Literature Review (No.1/1975) under the title "Philatelic Literature on Romania", the work has 33 pages of books and magazine articles from all over the world.

It is a very useful reference source and it can be ordered ($1.50/copy) from the author: Don Heller, 830 Criclewood Drive, apt.207, State College, Pennsylvania 16801.

MONARCHS of ROMANIA

The pictures of the Romanian princes and kings were often presented on postal issues, therefore we outline some historical data on these rulers.

CUZA

1859 colonel Alexandru Ioan Cuza elected prince of both Moldavia and Walachia,
1866 prince Alexandru Ioan Cuza deposed by a conspiracy.

CAROL I

1839 born in Germany as Karl Eitel Friedrich of Hohenzollern and Sigmaringen,
1866 named prince of Romania,
1881 crowned as Carol I, the first king of Romania,
1914 died after the outbreak of WW I.

FERDINAND

1865 born the son of Leopold of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, brother of Carol I,
1889 named heir presuptive to the Romanian throne by Carol I, who did not have a son,
1914 succeded Carol I to the throne,
1917 left Romania rather than sign a punitive treaty with the Central Powers in WW I,
1918 returned after the Allied victory,
1922 crowned as King Ferdinand, his wife Queen Marie of Romania,
1927 died leaving the throne to his grandson Michael.

CAROL II

1893 born in Sinaia, Romania, son of King Ferdinand,
1914 Carol of Hohenzollern becomes crown prince,
1918 married to a commoner, marriage later dissolved,
1921 married Helen, princess of Greece,
1926 renounced his rights to the throne, left Romania with his mistress Magda Lupescu,
1928 divorced Helen, princess of Greece,
1930 returned to the throne as King Carol II,
1940 forced to abdicate in favor of his son Michael, left the country with Magda Lupescu,
1947 married Magda Lupescu,
1953 died in Portugal.

MICHAEL I (Mihai I)

1921 born the son of Carol II and Helen, princess of Greece,
1927 became king under a council of regency,
1930 lost the throne to his father, King Carol II,
1940 became king again,
1947 on Dec.30, forced to abdicate; Romania becomes a people's republic.

An unused printing device: PORTO GAZETEI

In 1944 at the Stamp Printing Plant in Bucharest a printing device similar to the first "Bison head" (Moldavia) stamps was discovered. The printing device is circular, bearing the text in Latin letters: PORTO GAZETEI (PORTO was a mistake, FRANCO should have been correct, GAZETEI means "for newspapers"). It depicts in its center a bison head and a 5 pointed star. In the loop of the postal horn the value is written, number 10 and the letter P, abbreviation for the word PARALE (1 LEU 40 PARALE).

The design was suggested by the Department of Posts in Jassy in their letter No.2227 of Sept.12, 1858, to the Ministry of Finance, for printing 10 parale stamps needed for newspapers.

The stamps were never printed because of a scheduled reduction of postal charges for newspapers and printed matters to 5 parale.

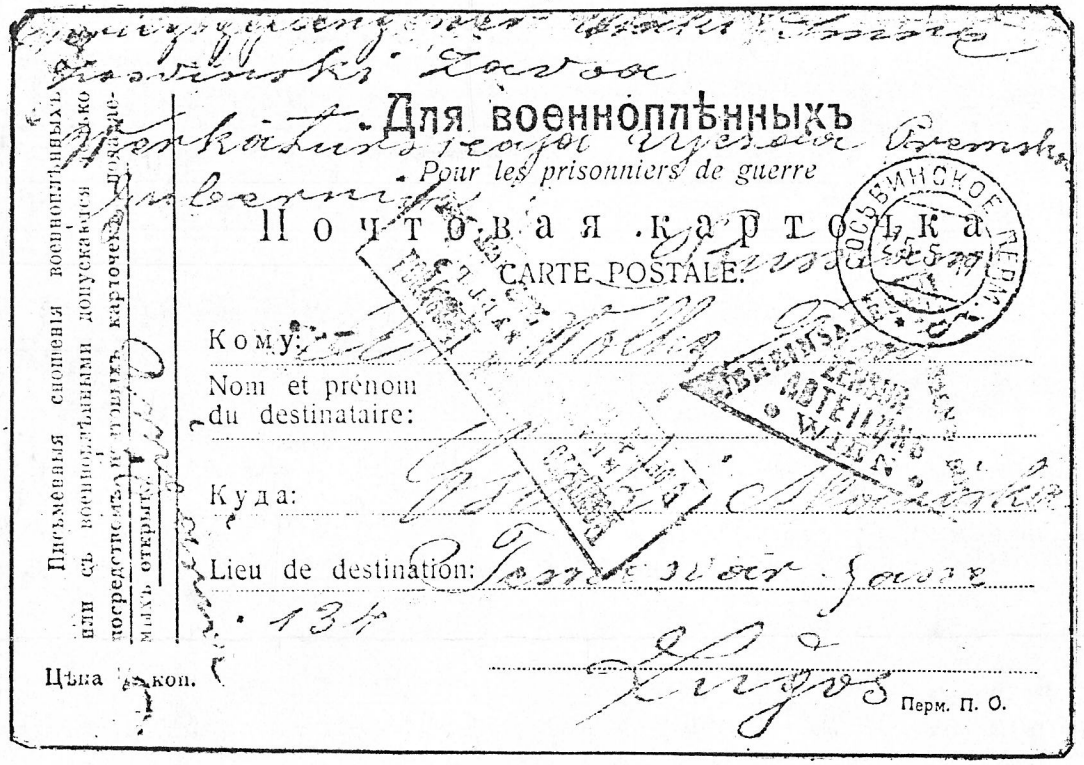
(From the "Romanian Stamp Catalogue" by Kiriac Dragomir and Aurel Surpăţeanu).

POSTAL HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

We reproduce here 2 P.O.W. postal cards having a lot of similarities.

The first one was mailed by a prisoner of war, during WW I, from czarist Russia (Perm region, West of the Ural Mts.) to his wife in the city of LUGOJ (that time under Hungarian administration, today in Romania). The sender was a Hungarian soldier; his descendents are still living in Lugoj.

The P.O.W. card was free of postage. It has a SOSVINSKOE PERM, double circle type of postal cancellation with the date: 25 5 17 (May 25, 1917) and 2 censorship markings. The Russian mark is rectangular and it reads: VSKRITO VOINOI CENZUROI, EKATERINBURG (today is Sverdlovsk), VOINII CENZOR No 253, LIT. III. The Austro-Hungarian censorhip mark is triangular and it reads: GEMEINSAMES ZENTR. NACHW. BÜRO, ZENSUR ABTEILUNG, WIEN.



The price of the card was 1/2 kopeck and judging by the dates on the cards found in a collection, a P.O.W. could write more than 1 card per day.

The second P.O.W. card came from a soldier kept in a Soviet camp (No 7241/2) after WW II, to his family in the village of MORAVIȚA, in Romania.

Despite the fact that on Aug.23, 1944, Romania turned from enemy to ally of the Soviet Union, on Sept.12,1944, signed an armistice and on May 9, 1945, the war ended in Europe, this P.O.W. (and many more) was still kept in captivity in 1948 (and perhaps later).

This is also a postage free card specially printed for P.O.W.s.

It is interesting that besides the double circle type MORAVIȚA cancellation, with the date 9 June,1948 there is a single censorship mark; the one of the Soviet Union. Romania being already under Soviet occupation, did not censor it again.

While the first card, from the pre-revolutionary Russia, has the sender's address, the second card, from the Soviet Union, has only a camp number.

The city of LUGOJ is not far from the village of MORAVIȚA; both are in the South-West of Romania.

The fate of the 2 soldiers who wrote these 2 P.O.W. cards, even a generation apart, havealot of resemblence.

ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES

The ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB membership is open to those interested in Romanian philately and postal history. A fee of $4.00/year is charged mainly to cover the cost of publishing and mailing the quarterly bulletin: ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES.

Those living in the New York metropolitan area are invited to attend the club's meetings, consisting of trading sessions (at which every kind of philatelic material and not only Romanian can be exchanged), short lectures and discussions held by the ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP, and micro-exhibitions.

Books, catalogues, magazines can be borrowed from the Romanian Philatelic Library by resident members, at every meeting.

Those who cannot attend the meetings are urged to participate by mail in the activities of the Romanian Philatelic Study Group and publish studies in the bulletin.

Send your check payable to ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB to the publisher: Miron Abramovici, 209 Berger St, Somerset, N.J. 08873.

Articles on Romanian philately should be sent to the editor: George Pataki, 34-24 76th St., Jackson Heights, N.Y. 11372.

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THE PRİNCE CUZA STAMPS

by Dr. L. N. CRİSTEA, TENGSTRASSE 20, apt. 304, 8000 MUNİCH 40, West GERMANY,
and FRITZ HEİMBÜCHLER, BOSETTİSTRASSE 9, 8000 MUNİCH 60, West GERMANY.

INTRODUCTION. The Prince Cuza stamps of Romania more than a century after their issue remain a fairly common stamp, especially mint, or in near-mint condition. There are good multiples about and even sheets (intact or reconstituted of the top value) which facilitates a very attentive study.

In the last three years new data were discovered, by research in the Romanian State Archives, as to the distribution of the stamps, the postal organization during their circulation and postmarks.

This issue circulated between 22 January 1865 and the 31 July 1866. The issue included 3 values: 2 Parale - for Printed Matter - in yellow/orange/ochre; 5 Parale - for Loco Letters - in light to deep blue; 20 Parale - for ordinary inland letters up to 15 gr. - in scarlet to deep red.

The paper used for this issue varied somewhat: ordinary white, greyish, yellowish, bluish. Laid paper white and yellowish.

The most common stamp of the issue is the 20 Par. This stamp was issued from two different plates: 192 to the sheet - with wide horizontal gutters, identical to the 2 and 5 Par. stamps; and 200 to the sheet, with narrower horizontal gutters. The first plate stamps, used or un-used in multiples are rarer. Very few multiples of the first plate survived.

The low values of 2 and 5 Par. are very much rarer in used condition. Their postmarks have been forged in great number. The 2 Par. on newspaper-wraps or printed-matter are very rare indeed. The 5 Par. on local letters are equally rare. They can be found in multiples on letters and postal-receipts which constitute rare items.

POLITICAL HISTORY OF THE CUZA REIGN. On the basis of the Congress of Paris of 1856 (which put an end to the Crimean War 1853/54) The Romanian Principality of MOLDAVIA recovered the three Southern Counties of CAHUL (KAHUL), BOLGRAD and ISMAIL, annexed by Russia in 1812.

The PARIS CONFERENCE of 1858, which completed the work of the 1856 Conference, allowed the formation of the UNITED PRINCIPALITIES OF MOLDAVIA AND WALLACHIA, but on condition that they would be ruled by SEPARATE Princes, Governments and Assemblies. The only COMMON LINK was going to be a "CENTRAL COMMISSION", set up in the frontier town of FOCŞANI (Fokschani), as a kind of co-ordinating body for the two Danubian Principalities.

Events moved quickly and in January 1859 Moldavia elected a new Prince in the person of Colonel Alexandru Ioan Cuza, the former "pircalab" (prefect of Covurlui County, capital: Galaţi /Galatz/). A few days later the same man was also elected to the throne of Wallachia. Thus a PERSONAL UNION was established, which was against the letter and the spirit of the PARIS CONFERENCE. Both Principalities remained also under the nominal protection of the Ottoman Empire.

The "fait accompli" and the firm determination of the two Romanian lands to remain united, forced the hand of the Great Powers, and in December 1861 this union was officially recognized when Prince Cuza was accepted as "Head of the United Principalities".

Soon afterwards the CENTRAL COMMISSION in Focşani was disbanded, the two governments and assemblies merged and BUCUREŞTI (Bucharest) made the capital of the united country.

POSTAL HISTORY OF THE CUZA PERIOD. The postal development of the two principalities differed greatly, because of international events. Moldavia had already issued postage stamps (the famous "Moldavian Bulls") in July 1858 and all postal facilities had been nationalized as from January 1st, 1852. The Postal and Telegraphic services had been re-organized with the help of Austrian Officials, "borrowed" from Lemberg - at that time part of the Austrian Empire. Wallachia had no postage-stamps and its mail and passenger services were, under government supervision, in the hands of Private Contractors.

The mail for abroad was entirely in the hands of foreign Consular Postal facilities (Austrian, Russian, French, Greek and possibly English). The Austrian and Russian facilities were the most used and more reliable.

With the Personal-Union under Prince Cuza the Postal Administration was entrusted, in August 1860, to the Ministry of Finance. A unified postal tariff was adopted for both Principalities; on May 1st, 1862 this tariff came into force and identical postage-stamps should have been brought into use.

The Stamp-Printing Office (Atelia Timbrului) had meanwhile been moved to Bucharest. It

started its work in Bucharest on April 1st 1862. It was under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Finance.

The Postal and Telegraphic Services were united under a new management DIRECȚIA GENERALĂ A TELEGRAFELOR ȘI A POȘTELOR by Decree 1093 of August 29th 1864. Its first Director-General was a Belgian, a personal friend of Prince Cuza, Cezar Liebrecht.

A Decree of December 18th 1864, in order to bring the Principalities in closer ties with European countries, introduced the Gregorian Calender (instead of the old Julian), which meant that as from January 1st 1865 all documents, including postal markings, were brought up to date: January 1st 1865 became January 13th 1865. There are no postal cancellations, not even on stampless covers, between the last day of 1865 and 13.1.1865. This detail is very important.

A new postal tariff had been adopted on December 5th, 1864, which came into force on January 13, 1865.

Loco-Letters:	5 Parale
Ordinary Letters:	20 Parale (for 15 grams)
Printed matter:	2 Parale (for 15 grams)
Registration fee:	20 Parale
Return-Receipt:	20 Parale

This new tariff was publicised in the BULETINUL TELEGRAFO-POSTAL Nr.1 of January 10th, 1865. Further details were gived in the Circular 3939.

The Central postal administration had under its authority the following categories of postal offices:

1) Postal-Offices in the chief towns of the counties
2) Telegraphic-Postal Stations
3) Custom-Postal Bureaux
4) Rural postal bureaux
5) Passenger Relay Postal facilities (21.8.1865)
6) Sub-Post Offices in Bucharest (13.8.1865).

THE CUZA STAMPS. In order to signify the political development of the United Principalities, it was proposed that new stamps should be issued with the effigy of the Prince and the inscription: Posta Romana. These were considered as being the outside indication that the new state considered itself sovereign.

The first official step was a Decree 1347 of October 12th, 1864. The day after, on October 13th, it was proposed that the stamps should be ordered in Belgium. There was some move in this direction but the essays submited have not been yet found. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bucharest, at the request of the Ministry of Finance, made new inquiries in Paris. Two foreign suppliers were contacted: a) Albert Barré and b) Maison Aumoitte-Stern. They both submitted essays and financial terms. The essays exist in a great variety of colors. The Ministry accepted in principle the offer of Maison Aumoitte-Stern, but the negotiations lasted too long and meanwhile the Ministry of Finance and the Direction of the Telegraph and Post in Bucharest had to prepare in a hurry a new issue of stamps. The Direction got in touch with Wonneberg (who quoted 10 lei for 1000 stamps) and the Ministry of Finance with Socec and Co. (Who quoted 8 lei for 1000 stamps). The order was placed by the Ministry and lithographer Sanders - who worked with Socec and Co. started his work immediately. Liebrecht - the Director General of the Telegraph and Posts took delivery of the stamps from Wonneberg and tried to put them into use. But the Minister of Finance, Steege, complaint to the Prime Minister and managed to get the Sanders stamps accepted and distributed to the Postal Direction.

Thus we have an "un-issued" Cuza issue - prepared and printed by Wonneberg - in sheets of 100 stamps, using for the first time in Romania's stamp printing a Tranfer-Block of 5, for the 2 and 5 Parale stamps and an uncertain number of transfers for the 20 Parale value. As these stamps were not accepted for use they remained in the following stocks:

2 Parale (yellow to bistre)	40.400 stamps
5 Parale (shades of blue)	77.200 stamps
20 Parale (shades of red)	82.500 stamps.

The Maison Aumoitte-Stern continued its negotiations during most of 1865 and on October 27th 1865 submitted essays of the 5 Parale stamp. On February 6th 1866 it sent 4 essays of each of the three values. This company had conceived sheets of 150 stamps, using Transfer-Blocks of 5. Thus 30 blocks

formed a sheet (15 hor. rows of 10 stamps each). On February 12th 1866 all these discussions and the possible order were cancelled, as Cuza was forced to abdicate and thus the stamps, an engraving by J. Dulos, were never printed, though from an artistic point of view they were finer even as the Wonneberg issue.

Once the Sanders stamps were imposed by the Government, the State Printing Office made the following deliveries:

	2 Par.	5 Par.	20 Par.
23. I.1865	52.032	108.480	102.912
31. I.1865	-	-	76.800
9.II.1865	48.000	76.800	268.800
12.IV.1865	192.000	-	-
11. X.1865	-	-	297.624
10.XI.1865	117.312	214.848	349.800
Total:	409.344	400.128	1.095.936

From the value of 5 Par. 768 were not put into use because of their "poor state".

As it was mentioned before, the sheets were composed of 192 stamps in 16 rows of 12 stamps each. But this arrangement made the accounting difficult and in October 1865 the 20 Parale value was printed in sheets of 200 stamps. To the old sheet another 8 stamps were added in the top right corner of the sheet, leaving thus 4 empty spaces in the top left corner.

For the 2 and 5 Parale stamps were used just one transfer, from the original die (frame), while for the 20 Parale two transfers were prepared, which follow each other regularly throughout the sheet. The 8 transfers added to the second 20 Parale plate followed the same pattern. Thus we have type A, (Oval of Effigy ⌣ touching the frame) followed by type B (Oval of Effigy NOT touching the frame). There are NO VERTICAL pairs of mixed types. In Scott Type I is like B and type II is like A.

In order to distinguish between the 20 Par. stamps of the first and second plate, the easiest guide is the with of the horizontal gutters: For plate A the gutters are 3.75-4.75 mm wide; plate B presents gutters of 3.00-3.50 mm. Of course all 20 Parale stamps used up to the end of October 1865 belong to plate A as the distribution of the plate B sheets started on November 7th 1865 only. (The Ministry of Finance had received them, from the printers, on September 9th, 1865.

It should be pointed out that the frame design of the three values is different. The 2 Par. presents in the two side spandrels (in which the words POSTA ROMANA appear) a very fine inter-crossing of fine lines. The 5 Parale has a dot in the middle of each square plus a line at the crossing of the fine lines. In the 20 Parale stamp the line appears at the intercrossing, but there are no dots in the middle of the squares. There are also slight differences between the design of the 20 Par. value on plate A and plate B.

THE PAPER OF THE CUZA ISSUE. All three values are known on "Wove Paper", which goes from white thin to white thicker, greyish, slightly yellowish porous, and light blue. On bluish paper are known only 2 Parale and 20 Parale.

The "Laid Paper" has only been found for the 2 lower values - 2 and 5 Parale. The laid paper for the 5 Parale value is a rarer stamp than on wove paper. The colour of the laid paper is mostly white.

THE MAIN VARIETIES. Given the great number of stamps printed, in a very short time, it is surprising to find that there are only minor varieties.

2 Parale: - wove paper - . One of the transfers of the plate did not take properly, or was damaged during transfer to the stone. As a result the top right figue "2" appears as a "Z". According to the Austrian publication DIE POSTMARKE this variety appears on stamp 36 of the sheet, which means at the end of the third horizontal row. One should be able to find it with sheet margin to the right. But this

remark is put in doubt by the existence of a strip (in a Munich collection) where this variety is not the end stamp.

On the laid paper stone a considerable scratch has affected two stamps, situated in the vertical rows 7 and 8. It starts under the right top figure 2, cuts through the spandrel frames and the letter "R" in ROMANA, touches slightly the letter "O", turns right through vertical frame-lines and then reaches the stamp on right. Here it affects the letter "P" of POSTA. The foot, of the figure "2" in the left lower corner, is sliced in two.

5 Parale: - wove paper - : The main variety is a series of "double prints". When the two prints are very close, the details appear blurred and the stamp looks bluish.

20 Parale: The second stone, of the 200 stamps to the sheet, presents, on a type II stamp, a deep scratch. It starts under the letter "T" in POSTA and going in a south-east direction, touches the neckline of the effigy.

There are many minor breaks in the frame lines, letters and effigy, but they are printing and not constant varieties. There are paper folds which I have seen on 2 and 20 Parale stamps.

THE POSTMARKS ON THE CUZA STAMPS. First Day was 22 Jan. 1865. Last Day (known so far) is 31 Jul. 1866, which is over 5 months after the abdication of Prince Cuza.

In order to simplify the description of the postmarks to be found on Cuza stamps I have adopted the numbering of Grigore Racoviceanu, which is also accepted by the latest ROMANIAN STAMP CATALOGUE OF 1974.

Here now a short list:

B-1	Moldova small postmark
B-2	Moldova large postmark
B8-B10	Postmark with a star
B-11	Simple ornament
B14-B19	Elaborate ornament
B-3	FRANCO/town
B-?	Post. Succ. No3, No4, No4, No5.
B-12	Single trellis
B-14	Square with trellis (Grătar Domnesc 27.I-28.2.65)
C-7	RECOMANDAT
C-11	DUPA PLECARE
C-15	FRANCO
E-3	Rural Post Bureaux
E-4	" " "

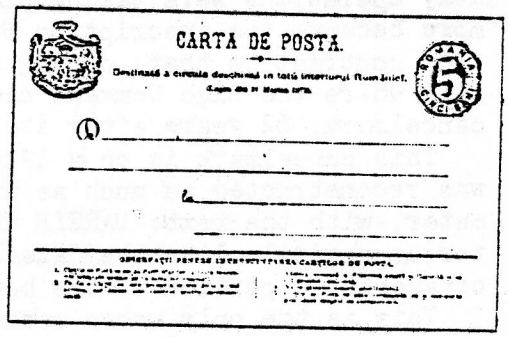
The postmarks "PP" or "PD" have never been found on Cuza stamps, neither have there been found the "B-6" and "B-7" postmarks, which is surprising.

A collection of letters, and receipts with the 20 Parale stamp is very gratifying and rewarding. There are some postmarks which are rather rare, as is the case with the Sub-Post-Offices of Bucharest, of the three Bessarabian counties, the Custom-Postal Bureaux and those associated with the Austrian Postal Services, for the conveying of the mail to destinations abroad.

Review: MICHEL GANZSACHEN KATALOG, EUROPA 1978, RUMÄNIEN.

(MICHEL, Postal Stationery Catalogue, Europe 1978, Romania).

Published in Germany, 774 pages, retail price in the USA $35.95. The Romanian section has 50 pages (H&G has 57) and covers all postal stationeries issued till 1974 (H&G goes to 1969). In many instances, Michel illustrates the entire item, not only a portion of it or the printed stamp as H&G does. While H&G goes chapter by chapter, Michel goes more or less chronologically, mixing postal cards (marked with P), wrappers (S), letter cards (K), money orders (A), telegram forms (TB), postal checks (AS), envelopes (U), official notes (DU, DP), postal receipts (ES), air mail envelopes (LU), registred envelopes (EU) and parcel post forms (AZ).



The items are assessed (in German currency) much below the American market prices but the catalogue is a good work, perfectly usable even by those who don't understand German.

It can be questioned why a 1978 catalogue covers only items issued till 1974.

Review: INDRUMATORUL FILATELISTULUI 1978 (The Philatelist's Guidebook 1978), reviewed by MIHAIL POPOVICI, Bucharest, Romania.

Published in Bucharest, 259 pages, 14 articles and studies with 550 illustrations.

The editorial is written by Lucian Belcea and "The revolutionary party of the Romanian working class, a major philatelic theme" is signed by Iosif Micu.

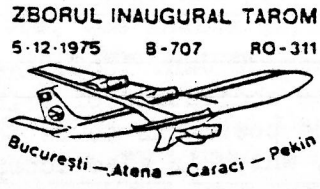
Dumitru C. Biala presents "Pictorial printed stamps on the 1948-1965 Romanian stationeries" previewing the material for a catalogue to be published later.

"Date cancel types used after Jan.1, 1948" is a segment from a future book by Iosif Micu and "Varieties of the adhesive stamps of the republic's coat of arms type" is by Mihai Bauer.

"On the value of the second issue of Moldavia stamps" by Corneliu Spineanu is a study on the scarcity and prices of these stamps; mint, used, on covers, etc.

"Philately and school" by Lucian Belcea argues the use of philately in education. "Romanian stamps and postal stationeries overprinted during the 1952 monetary reform" is signed by Mihail Popovici and "Maximum cards in a philatelic collection" is by Dr. Valeriu S. Neaga, and, "On some perforation errors " is by Dan Mihai Belcea.

In "Aero-philatelic collections" Alex. Bartoc presents a summary of the regulations governing the aero-philatelic exhibitions and the cancels of the 1972-1977 first and special flights.



"Art reproductions on Romanian stamps" is by Gh. A. Bighia and "The memory of the newspaper" is by Andy Constantinescu.

Titus Florin Predescu describes the "Philatelic activity in Bucharest, 1975-1977".

This is the fifth guidebook published in 10 years and its content is valuable both to beginners and advanced philatelists.

Cancels of the 1877 and 1916 military headquarters,

by Grigore RACOVICEANU, Str. Tunarilor No. 6, Bucharest 9, cod. 72121, ROMANIA.

The cancels of the military posts during wars are scrace because during major military operations the gathering of cancelmarks is neglected. We present here the cancels of the Military High Command posts in 1877 and 1916 wars, discovered accidentally, many years after their use.

The postal cancel of the Military Higy Command of the Romanian army in 1877 was described by prof. Ioan Patrascu (Filatelia, No.5/1966) and Dumitru Passalega (Filatelia, Nos.2-3/1968). 90 years after its use. The cancel is of concentric circles type, 23 and 13 mm diameter, with the inscription QUARTIER GEN. POIANA and the only known date on three lines: 6 AUG 77, and a small ornament at the bottom (POIANA is the locality).

I suppose this cancel was used only for a short period of time, because in October 1877 the Military High Command was moved south of the Danube river, where the most important militay operations were taking place. After the move, this canceller could not be used anymore because the inscription POIANA would not have been appropriate.

In contrast to that, during the 1916-1919 campaign, a canceller to be used in any locality where the High Command had its headquarters, was prepared. Recently I discovered this cancelmark, 62 years after its use, and so far it is unique example.

This cancelmark is on a 1916 5 bani black TIMBRU DE AJUTOR (postal tax) stamp and it was reconstructed as much as it was possible. It is of a single circle type, 28 mm in diameter, with the text: MARELE CARTIER GENERAL, on the second row: OFIC. TEL., in the center on a single line the date: 14 DEC 1916 and two small striped segments of circles as ornaments. A portion at the bottom could not be reconstructed.

This is the only known cancelmark of this type. We bring to the collectors' attention these postal markings used during those wars, because their great majority has been destroyed or damaged and their identification is difficult.

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Hohe Rinne

A Local Post in Transylvania (1895-1926)

by George Pataki

In 1894, in the township of Cristian, Sibiu county, Transylvania, which is in the heart of the Carpathian mountains, a beautiful resort area was organized with several guest houses. The management asked the Hungarian postal authorities (at that time, Transylvania was under Hungarian administration) to open a post office there. The request was denied but a private post office was approved in the village of Hohe Rinne (Paltinis in Romanian), and in 1895, the first local post stamps were printed.

Figure 2.

Figure 3.

Every letter and postcard leaving or arriving at Hohe Rinne was handled by the employees of the "Siebenburgischer Karpathenverein" company and had to have a local post stamp affixed, to cover the cost of transportation to or from the nearest official post office. In addition to this "hotel post stamp," as it is sometimes called, a regular postal stamp was required for official postage.

Until 1907, the nearest official post office was Keresztenysziget (the Hungarian name of Cristian). From 1908 to 1918 it was Nagy Szeben, called Sibiu (in Romanian) from 1919 to 1926. Regular postal cancellations bearing these different town names were used to cancel the official stamps, while the local post stamps were canceled with the Hohe Rinne resort area cancels.

Figure 1.

Hungarian stamps were in use until 1918. After that date, Transylvania became part of Romania, and Romanian stamps were used.

On illustrated postcards the local post stamps were often applied on the picture side, while on letters they were affixed to the back of the envelope. This practice made it clear that the local stamps and the official stamps belonged to two separate postal administrations.

There were nine issues of the Hohe Rinne stamps (the 1898 issue was not put in use), all on unwatermarked paper. Some of the stamps were issued imperforate, others perforated 11½, except the first issue, which was vertically perforated 11. Perforated stamps with

Figure 4.

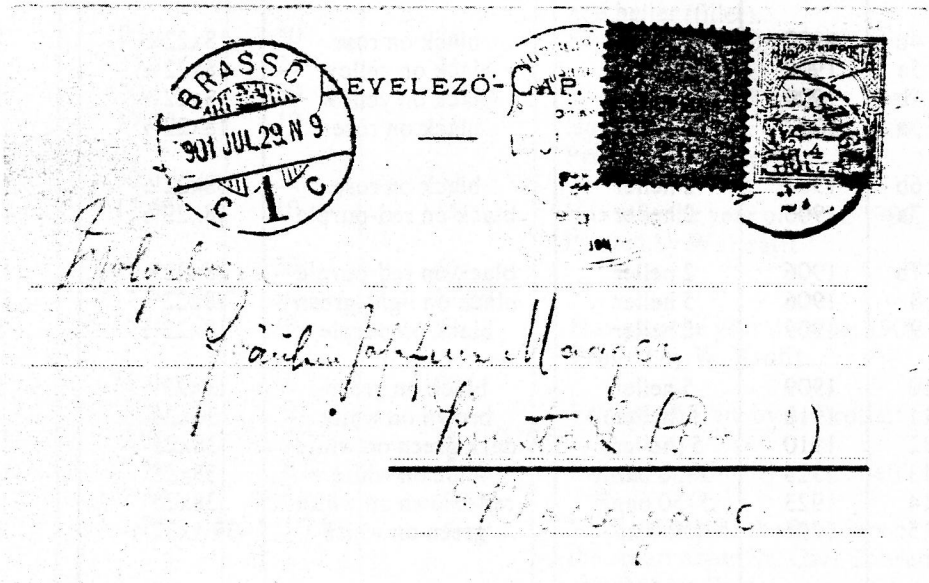


Figure 5.

Figure 6.

Figure 7.

one or two adjacent straight edges are from sheet margins.

In the "Value" column of the table, the text in parentheses does not appear on the stamps; it only indicates for what the stamp was sold.

In 1910, an envelope was also issued with a printed stamp of 1910 on the upper-left corner. The paper was white

Figure 8.

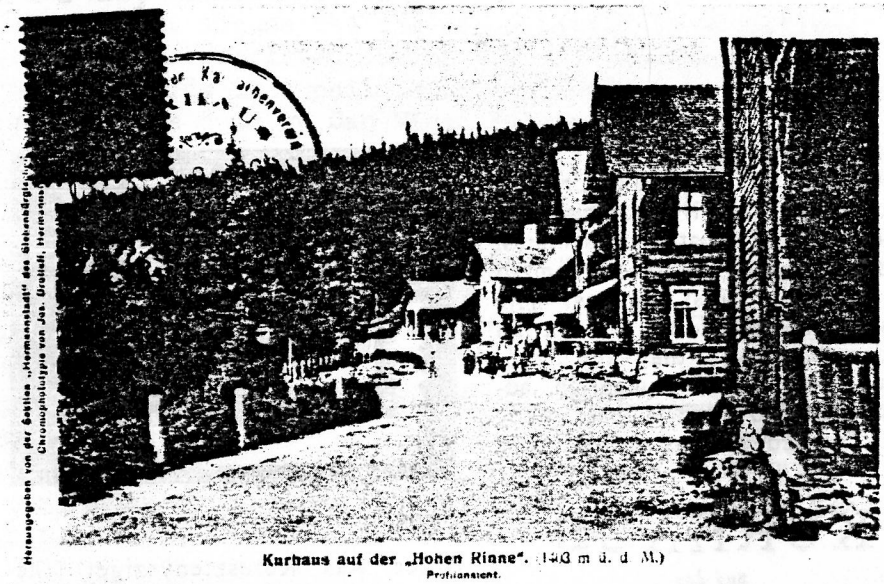


Figure 9.

No.	Year	Value	Color: print & paper	Design size in mm	Stamps in sheet	Quant. issued	Used on
1	1895	2 kreuzer	black on yellow	28x23	coil?	500	cards & letters
2	1896	2 kreuzer	black on grey	27x23	1	1,000	cards & letters
3	1898	2 kreuzer	black on yellow	27x23	1	1,000	cards & letters
4a	1900	2 heller	black on rose	18x22½	12	4,800	cards
4b	1900	2 heller	black on rose	18x22½	12	200	cards
5a	1900	4 heller	black on yellow	18x22½	12	4,800	letters
5b	1900	4 heller	black on yellow	18x22½	12	200	letters
6a	1903	2 heller	black on rose	18x22½	110	8,000	cards
6b	1903	2 heller	black on rose	18x22½	110	2,000	letters
7a	1906	2 heller	black on red-purple	18x22½	110	8,000	cards
7b	1906	2 heller	black on red-purple	18x22½	110	2,000	cards
8	1906	5 heller	black on light-green	18x22½	110	10,000	letters
9	1909	2 heller	black on purple	18x22½	50	2,000	cards
10	1909	5 heller	black on green	18x22½	50	2,000	letters
11	1910	3 (heller)	brown on white	38x25	4	22,860	cards
12	1910	5 (heller)	dark green on white	38x25	4	14,960	letters
13	1923	3 (30 bani)	blue on white	38x25	4	5,360	cards
14	1923	5 (50 bani)	red-brown on white	38x25	4	5,360	letters
15	1924	(50 bani)	green on white	39½x32½	10	30,000	cards
16	1924	(1 leu)	red on white	39½x32½	10	30,000	letters

Figure 10.

Figure 11.

and the printed stamp olive-green, without any imprinted value. Sheets of writing paper were also in use, with stamp impressions similar to those on the envelope, but with rosettes in the lower corner boxes (where the stamps have their value inscribed).

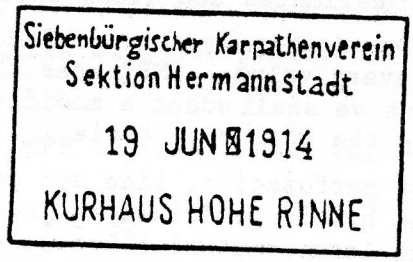


Figure 12.

Figure 13.

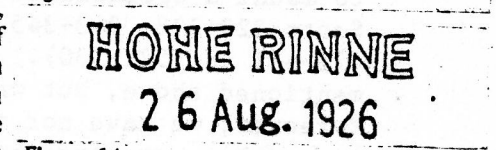


Figure 14.

Figure 15.

In 1926, the Romanian postal administration abolished the Hohe Rinne local (hotel) post and 1933 established in Paltinis an official post office whose activity was later terminated as unprofitable.

The indicators listed in the table are not prices but relative values showing the scarcity of those items.

Fig.	Cancels used Fig.	Perforation	Value Indicators			Remarks
			Unused	Used	On Cover	
1	2	vertical 11	250	150	200	Printed in Sibiu by W. Krafft.
3	4	imperf.	75	60	100	Bisected vert. on cards.
						Individually printed in Sibiu by W. Krafft.
3	4	imperf.	40	50	125	Favor cancels, no postal usage.
5	4	11 1/2	35	25	30	The Hungarian currency was changed from gulden and kreuzer to kronen and heller (filler).
—	4	imperf.	200	50	75	Printed in Sibiu by W. Krafft.
6	4, 7	11 1/2	35	25	35	
—	4, 7	imperf.	100	50	87.50	
8	4, 7	11 1/2	17.50	10	15	Has also the year of issue: 1903.
						Printed by W. Krafft.
—	4, 7	imperf.	50	30	40	
9	4, 7	11 1/2	17.50	10	15	Has also the year of issue: 1906.
						Printed by W. Krafft.
—	4, 7	imperf.	50	30	40	
—	4, 7	11 1/2	15	10	17.50	
—	7	"	75	40	60	Has also the year of issue: 1909.
						Printed by W. Krafft.
—	7	"	75	40	100	
10	4, 7, 12	"	2.50	2	5	Printed in Sibiu by J. Drotleff.
11	4, 7, 12	"	2.50	2	5	
10	7	"	7.50	6	7.50	Printed in Sibiu by J. Drotleff.
11	7	"	7.50	6	10	
13	14, 15	"	1.75	1.75	4	With effigies of the founders of the resort area: Dr. Carl Conradt and Robert Gutt.
13	14, 15	"	1.75	1.75	5	Printed by Krafft & Drotleff.

Perforation varieties of the Michael (1928-30) and Carol (1930-32) issues,

by DON HELLER, 206 West Fairmount Ave, STATE COLLEGE, PA 16801.

Modern Romanian stamps generally do not present many varieties, but an interesting exception is the series of small format, large volume issues of 1928 - 1947. These include the Michael and Carol portrait issues of 1928 - 32, the official stamps of 1929 - 30, the postage dues of 1932 - 38, the aviation tax stamps of 1931 - 36, and the Michael portrait issues of 1940 - 47. All occur with a complex range of perforations, some of which are described in Catalogul Marcilor Postale Romanesti (CMPR).

In this article we summarize the results of studying an accumulation of about 3800 stamps (mostly used singles) from the 1928 - 1932 portrait issues. This study was prompted by their incomplete catalog listing and our own attempt to mount a specialized collection. The particular stamps discussed here are Scott 320-328, 343-345, 353-368A, 369-379 and 405-414 (CMPR 423-433, 450-467, 471-481 and 521-530). Our observations should also apply to the other issues mentioned above, but we have not had sufficient material for extensive study. Moreover, we have not studied sheets or large multiples of the 1928 - 32 issues since they were not obtainable. This has been a serious hindrance and leaves many questions unanswered. The reader may judge from the numbers examined as to the reliability of our estimates and areas which need further investigation.

Nine different perforation types are involved with the 1928-32 issues, though not all exist on every value. CMPR uses the symbols A, K, L, N, P and R to denote the types, but we shall adopt a modified notation that conveys more useful information. (See the following table.)

Two basic methods of perforation, line and comb, form the types most frequently encountered. The hybrid perforations, comb on three sides and line on the fourth side, are much less common but not so uncommon that they cannot be found in a small accumulation. Unusual varieties (imperf vertically, imperf horizontally, imperf at bottom, double vertical perfs) exist on some stamps; for details see CMPR. We shall not deal with the imperforated Carol issues of 1930.

Perforation Types for the 1928 - 1932 Portrait Issues

One figure - same gauge all around. Two figures - top and bottom x left and right. Four figures - top x right x bottom x left.

Symbol	Style	Standard Gauge	Instanta Gauge
A	line	13½	13.4
K	comb	13½ x 14	13.4 x 13.8
K1 - K4	hybrid of K (3 sides) and A (1 side)		
K1 (A on top)		indistinquishable from K	
K2 (A on right)		13½ x 13½ x 13½ x 14	13.4 x 13.4 x 13.4 x 13.8
K3 (A on bottom)		probably does not exist	
K4 (A on left)		13½ x 14 x 13½ x 13½	13.4 x 13.8 x 13.4 x 13.4
L	line	14½ x 13½	14.35 x 13.4
N	comb	14½ x 14	14.35 x 13.95
Q1 - Q4	hybrid of N (3 sides) and A (1 side)		
Q1 (A on top)		13½ x 14 x 14½ x 14	13.4 x 13.95 x 14.35 x 13.95
Q2 (A on right)		14½ x 13½ x 14½ x 14	14.35 x 13.4 x 14.35 x 13.95
Q3 (A on bottom)		probably does not exist	
Q4 (A on left)		14½ x 14 x 14½ x 13½	14.35 x 13.95 x 14.35 x 13.4

Catalogul Marcilor Postal Romanesti types P (13½ - 14½ x 14 - 14½) and R (14 - 14½ x 13½ - 14½) are equivalent to the Q types described above.

Michael Portrait Issues, 1928 - 1930.

1928 - 1929, unwatermarked, Scott 320-328, CMPR 423-430, 450.

	25b	*30b*	*50b*	*1l*	*2l*	*3l*	*5l*	*7.5l*	*10l*	*all values*
A		100	*	30				4	77.5	17%
K	100		100	70	100	100	100	96	21.5	83%
K4				C					1	.2%
#	11	17	120	80	239	237	344	377	316	1741

\# - number examined; * - exists with overprint
C - listed in CMPR but not found

1928, watermarked, Scott 343-345, CMPR 431-433.

	25b	*7.5l*	*10l*	*all values*
A		5.5		2%
K	100	94.5	100	98%
#	3	128	197	328

1930, small format, Scott 353-357, CMPR 451-455. *(1, 2, 3, 7.5, 10l)*

All perf N, but *7.5l* perf A exists with overprint. # - 74.

1930, overprinted 8 IUNIE 1930

unwatermarked, Scott 359-362A, CMPR 456//466 *(25, 30, 50b, 5, 10l)*

Individual percentages cannot be given, but the set as a whole is 37.5% perf A, 62.5% perf K. # - 32.

small format, Scott 363-367, CMPR 460//467 *(1, 2, 3, 7.5, 10l)*

All perf N, but one example of *7.5l* found with perf A. # - 66

watermarked, Scott 368-368A, CMPR 457, 464 *(25b, 7.5l)*

Both perf K only. # - 24.

Carol Portrait Issues, 1930 - 1932.

1930, watermarked PTT, Scott 369-379, CMPR 471-481.

	25b	*50b*	*1l*	*2l*	*3l*	*4l*	*6l*	*7.5l*	*10l*	*16l*	*20l*	*all values except 16l*		*16l*	
N	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	73%	(521)	11%	(9)
A	X		B	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	5%	(35)	74%	(59)
L	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		16%	(114)	14%	(11)
Q1											X	rare	(1)	rare	(0)
Q2	X		X	X	X	B	X	B	X	X		3%	(21)	1%	(1)
Q4	X			X	X	X	X	B	X	B		3%	(20)	rare	(0)
												100%	(712)	100%	(80)

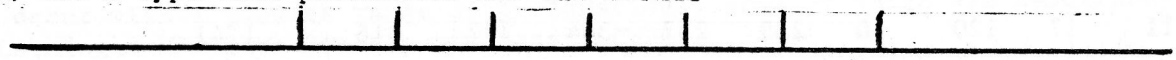
X - found in my accumulation, number in parentheses.
B - listed in Billig's Philatelic Handbook, vol. 13, but not found.

1932, watermarked monogram, Scott 405-414, CMPR 521-530.

	25b	*50b*	*1l*	*2l*	*3l*	*4l*	*6l*	*7.5l*	*10l*	*20l*	*all values*		*both issues, all values*
N	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	76%	(542)	71.6%
A	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	8%	(55)	9.8%
L	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		13%	(94)	14.4%
Q2		X		X	X	X					2%	(12)	2.2%
Q4		X	X	X	X	X			X		1%	(8)	1.8%
											100%	(711)	

Few remarks are necessary about the 1928-30 Michael portraits; the tables summarize the distribution of perforation types. The hybrid type K4 is quite scarce and evidently comes from a sheet in which the left edge remained imperforate after the comb perforation, then was perforated with a line machine. Perforation type K2 should also exist, but has not been reported.

The greater frequency of the hybrid perforations on the Carol issues leads to the question, how were they created? After studying some large multiples of the 1940-47 Michael portraits, the answer is quite clear. For some unknown reason, the N-type comb perforator has the format



In typical use, a comb perforator will perforate threesides of each stamp in one row of the sheet. The fourth side is perforated by another strike of the comb perforator, or, as in the case of type Q1, by a line perforator. The latter is a much rarer occurence; only one example was found.

However, the comb perforator used here left some stamps in each row with only the bottom perforated; the top was perforated in the next comb operation. At this stage in the process we have some stamps completely perforated, two that are3/4 perforated, and some only half perforated. Multiples of later issues show that there were five half perforated stamps per row on the left side of the row, and at least two (probably five) on the right side. The next stage in the process is to finish perforating these stamps, and only a line perforator would be capable of neatly performing this operation. The following is typical of what results in the vertical perforations:

	13.4	13.4	13.4	13.4	13.95	13.95	13.95	13.95	13.95	...
type		L	L	L	Q4	N	N	N	N	...
		line perforator				comb perforator				

All horizontal perforations are 14.35. Thus we expect to find an equal number of types Q2 and Q4, a larger number of type L, and a much larger number of type N. Type A results from a sheet entirely perforated with a line machine, which takes more work and would be used less often. This indeed occurs, as the data shows.

The following questions remain, and can best be answered by studying complete sheets. What is the sheet size? Is the distribution of types N, L, Q2 and Q4 consistent? That is, does the comb perforator always leave the same number of partially perforated stamps in each row? Why does the small format Michael issue, also perforated type N, not also occur with types L, Q2 and Q4? What technical justification was there for such an unusual arrangement of two perforating machines?

Newly Discovered Cancels by GRIGORE RACOVICEANU.

I have been carrying out research in marcophily for 50 years, and still with some effort and careful observation I sometimes discover new cancelmarks on common stamps.

For example, SULINA 17 MAI 99, diameter 26 mm, symbol B.129b (by the author's classification system, published in "Postal Cancellations Used in Romania Until 1881", reviewed in No.3/1977) is a unique single circle type cancel, from the time of the monarchy (1881-1947). The lower part of the cancel is still unknown because it does not appear on the studied item.

This cancelmark should not be confused with SULINA 19 APR 85, diameter 25 mm, symbol B53 (with triple dateline), which is among the first ones used after the re-annexation of Dobrugea in 1879. Also, it should not be confused with SULINA 23/1, symbol I19, used by the Austrian posts in 1865-1868. Both B53 and I19 were used during the period of the principality.

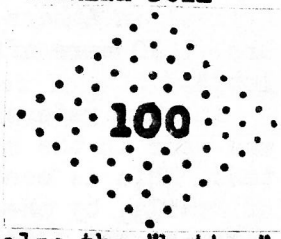
For the period of the monarchy, I discovered an "occasional cancel", elliptical, 36/21 mm, with the inscription: CUMPARATI CARTI ROMANESTI (translated: Buy Romanian Books) SAPTAMANA CARTII (translated: BOOK WEEK) 12 MAI 934 BUCURESTI. I can not vouch for the given sizes and inscription, since portions of this cancel were outside the stamp on which it was found.

The GREEK Post Offices on ROMANIAN soil,

by **Emilios D. Xanthopoulos**, 94-28 40th Rd, Elmhurst, N.Y. 11373, USA.

According to official documents, four Greek post offices functioned on Romanian soil (in the provinces of Moldavia and Walachia) during the 19th century:

GALATZION	post	office	number	100
IBRAILA	"	"	"	101
BOUKOURESTI	"	"	"	102
SULINA	"	"	"	133



They used numeral postmarks, circular date postmarks, and in Bucharest also the "button" type. The numeral postmark, introduced in 1861, is rhombic, each side about 18 mm long. It has 64 dots (8 by 8), minus the ones covered by the post office number. The circular date postmark, 21/12 mm, were introduced at the opening of these post offices.

The post offices of GALATZION, IBRAILA and BOUKOURESTI officially were established in July 1857 by a Royal Decree dated July 9, 1857, and that of SULINA in June 1871 by a Royal Decree dated June 30, 1871.

The BOUKOURESTI post office closed by the end of 1863 by the Royal Decree of December 18, 1863, those of GALATZION and IBRAILA in 1867, and that of SULINA in August 1875 by the order of the Greek Postmaster General, dated August 7, 1875.

Of the SULINA post office no letters were found - to our knowledge - up to date to establish that this post office functioned properly. They are known only two or three stamps with numeral postmarks which are very qeuestionable. At that time SULINA belonged to Turkey.

Of the GALATZION post office very few numeral postmarks are known and that one stamp with the circular dated postmark and the words GALATZION (MOLDAVIA) on a 5 lepta large Hermes head was found in 1931 and we presume it was the one mentioned to had been in the STRANGE Greek collection (sold by Robson Lowe on May 22, 1957).

The late Peter Binicos in "The 19th century Greek post offices in Moldavia & Wallachia", published in Philotelia (journal published in Greece, in Greek and English) noted: "A circular date stamp on piece, dated 1 June 64 with a strip of five 20 lepta Athens print 1872-67 affixed as postage dues on arrival and the circular date stamp LAMIA 13 June 64, was sold in the Robson Lowe sale on March 12, 1958".

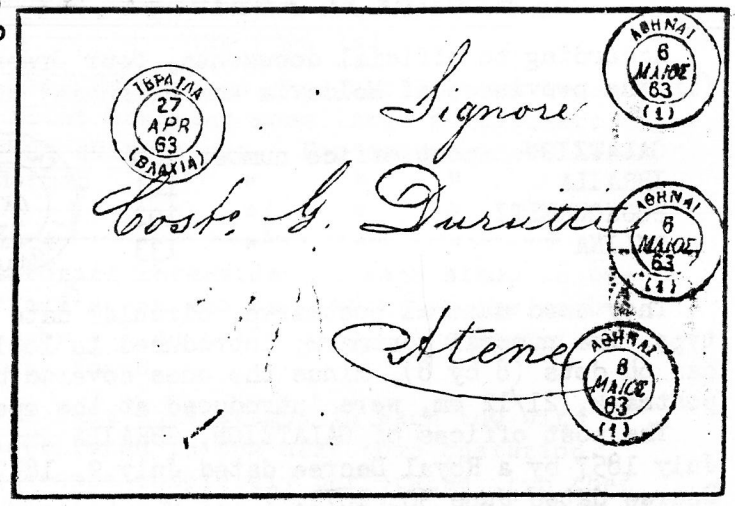
The postmarks of IBRAILA, though rare, are better known as they exist on stamps and entires from 1858 up to 1865.

Peter Binicos in the above mentioned article stated: "In Philotelia No.336 (March-April 1956), a photograph and description of an entire of the pre-stamp period from the ROTH collection was published. The entire was mailed from Syra in July 29, 1858 to Signore Chr. Giorgi. On the back there is a transit circular date stamps IBRAILA (VLACHIA) 6 Aug. 58 and arrival circular date stamp BOUKOURESTI (VLACHIA) 12 Aug. 58. Along with the great interest of the discovery, great confusion was created mixed with scepticism about the authenticity of the rare postmarks IBRAILA and BOUKOURESTI, due to the fact that the printer had the notion to retouch the cliche and by mistake made all the circular postmarks, dated 1853 instead of 1858 (Philotelia No.337/1956). From information submitted by Mr. Roth and from new information coming from a Sofia, Bulgaria letter received by Mr. Drossos (Philotelia No.339/1956) corrections were made in the next issues, restoring the reality and the authenticity of this rare entire.

At the end of this letter, additional new information is furnished as follows: The letter which Mr. Drossos received from his Sofia correspondent contained the unexpected information that the writer of this letter had in his collection an entire from Syros also addressed to the same person, Chr. Giorgi. The letter carries the circular date stamp of Syros 3 March 1859 and red colored Π.Ε.Δ (Paid dues). On the back, to the left, and on the flap, there is a transit circular date stamp IBRAILA (VLACHIA) dated 20 March 1859. It is a clear strike except in the upper part where the name IBRAILA is slightly oily. The color of the ink is green-blue (the green more prevailing). On the upper part and to the right there is arrival circular date stamp BOUKOURESTI (VLACHIA) dated 24 March 1859. It is extremly clear. There are no oily stains, and, contrary to the IBRAILA stamp, the color of the ink is blue-green with the blue strongly prevailing.

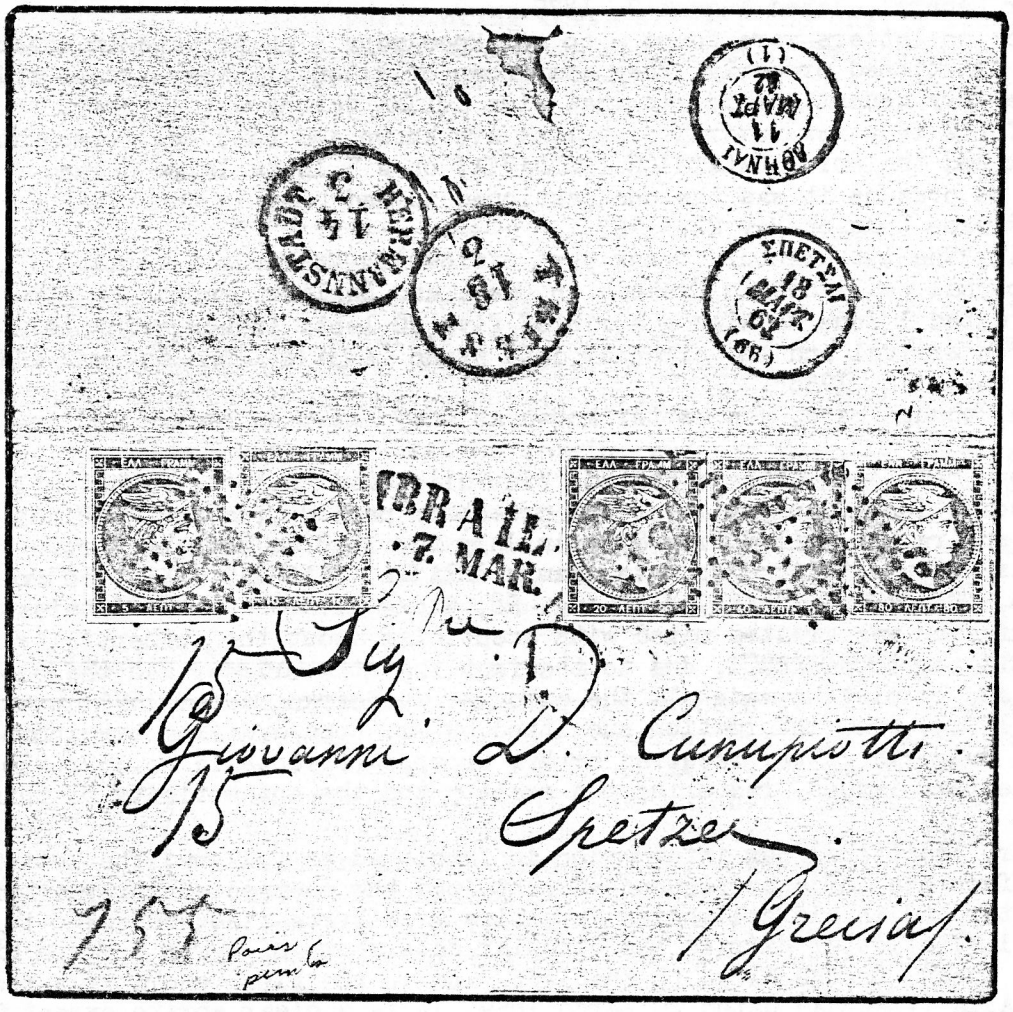
In "Historical details of the Greek post offices in Moldavia-Walachia and Soulina" by Sophocles G. Nicolaides (reviwed in Romanian Philatelic Studies No.2/1977) the author presnts an entire with an IBRAILA (VLACHIA) circular date stamp and describes it as follows: "I reproduce above the photograph of a further letter, which, as far as I know, has not been pu-

blished in Greece. This letter belongs to a foreign collector. This letter was posted in Braila without payment of postage, with Athens as its destination. It bears the despatch stamp of IBRAILA, 27th April, 63, and the stamp of arrival in Athens where postage stamps worth Drs. 1.10 were affixed under date of 6th May 1863".



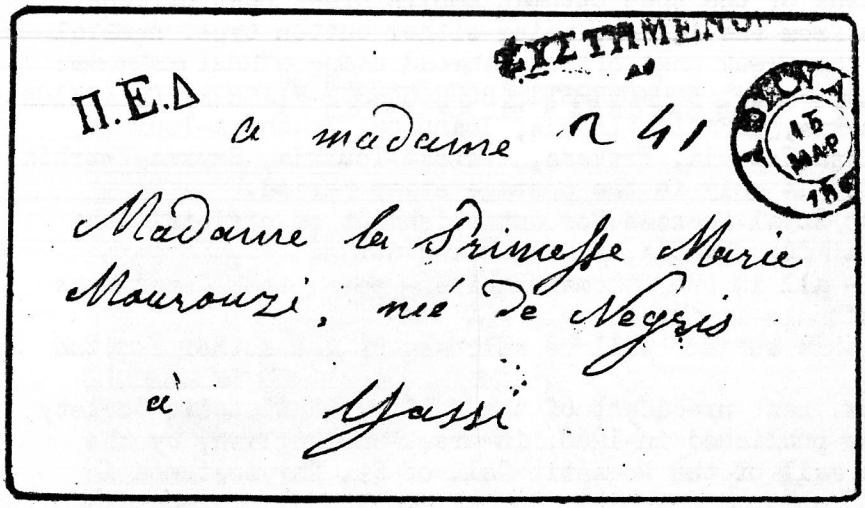
Another reference to the IBRAILA postmark was made in the same work when the author stated: "This is confirmed, at least in the case of Braila, by the existence of an envelope carrying the "IBRAILA", postmark 10th October 1857, of which a photograph was published by the late Mr. Al. Argyropoulos in "Philotelia" No.220/1, May-June 1943".

In the collection of Philip LEFKOWITZ of New York, there is a beautiful, maybe unique entire (see below) mailed at IBRAILA to SPETSAI. In the front top middle there is an horizontal, two lines Austrian postmark IBRAIL(A) 7 MAR. and the 5,10,20, 40 and 80 lepta Paris print, large Hermes stamps with numeral postmarks of SPETSAI (66). On the back, the transit postmarks of Hermannstadt 14/3 (located in Transylvania today is called SIBIU), TRIEST 18/3, ATHINAI 11 March 1862 with the post office number (1), and the SPETSAI arrival postmark 18 March 1862 with the post office number (66). The apparent discrepancy in the dates is due because the difference in the old Julian and the new Gregorian calendars. The two lines IBRAILA postmark is mentioned in Part.6, Fig.728, page 447, of the "Austrian Post Offices Abroad" by Tschilinghirian & Stephen.



In my collection I have a small cover addressed to MADAME LA PRINCESSE MARIE MOUROUZI, NEE DE NEGRIS A YASSI. It was mailed REGISTRED (has a SYSTIMENON blue-green line postmark and the number 241 in black ink) from Athens (blue-green circular date postmark ATHINAI 15 March 1857). It has a red Π.Ε.Δ (paid dues for abroad) postmark and on the back a two line CZERNOWITZ 8 APR. postmark and the lower half of an Austrian (to my opinion) postmark. Constantin MOUROUZI and his son Alexander MOUROUZI, Phanariot Greeks, ruled Moldavia and Walachia in the name of the Ottoman Empire, on and off, from 1777 to 1807.

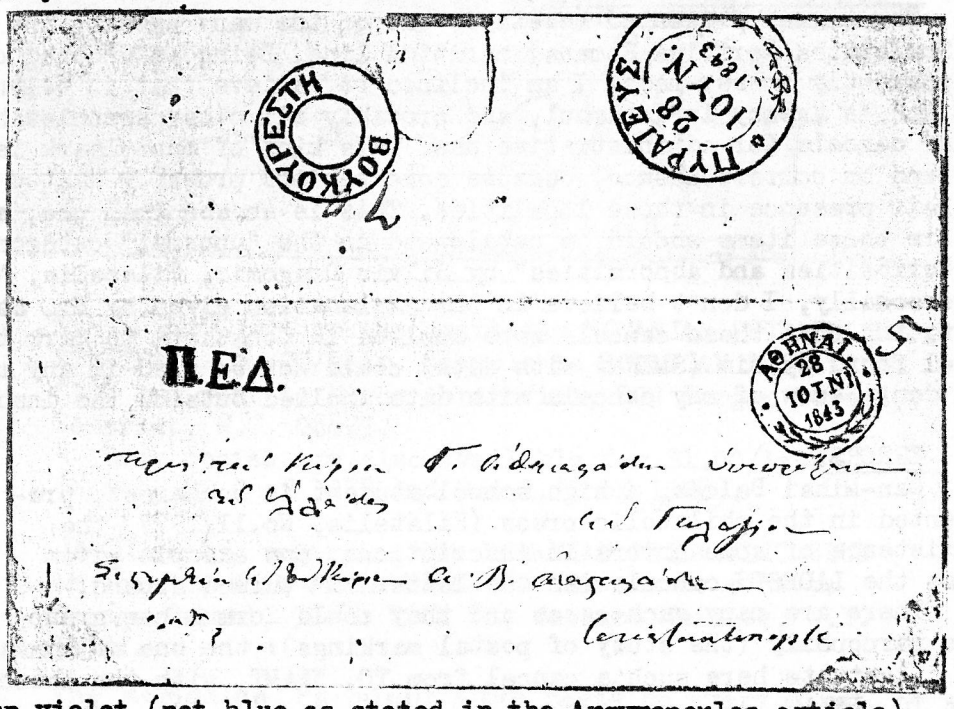
The postmarks of BOUKOURESTI are very rare and an entire in the ARGYROPOULOS collection dated 23 Jan. 1863 with the 10, 20 and 80 lepta Paris print stamps on which both the numeral and the circular date postmarks with BOUKOURESTI (VLACHIA) are, is still considered unique.



One of the most interesting subjects in this field is the "button" type, dateless, BOYKOYPESTH (Bucharest) postmark. As was mentioned, the BOUKOURESTI post office was officially established in July 1857. Yet we know about a Greek postmark used in Bucharest long before that date. Peter Binicos described it in his article "The prestamp Button type stampmark of the Greek post office of Bucarest" in Philotelia No.372: "Indeed the above postmark exists and is identical with the known Greek prestamp postmarks. They are double circle postmarks, diameter 21 mm externally and 12 mm internally, with the name of the town (BOYKOYPEΣTH) between the two circles and the center blank (no date). The letters of the name are of the Roman type. We have in our collection the earliest postmarks of the "button" type as follows: KYNAITHA (later KALAVRYTA) 1837, GYTHION 1838, KALAMAI 1839, and TRIFYL, PYLOS (later PYRGOS) 1840. In the J. S. Strange sale of May 22, 1959 (Robson Lowe), there were: 1) Lot 246, printed circular from Athens to Bucarest dated 1852 carrying arrival pre-stamp type "button" postmark BOYKOYPEΣTH and 2) Lot 245 cover from Athens addressed to Mr. G. Athanassiades, vice-consul of Greece, at Galatz via Constantinople carrying on the front small double circle pre-stamp postmark ATHINAI dated 28 June 1843 and Π.Ε.Δ. On the back, there is transit postmark PYRAIEYS dated 28 June 1843, also transit type "button" postmark BOYKOYRE TH. There were no other inscriptions of any kind on arrival to Galatz. According to the above information, it is evident that in Bucarest there was existing a Greek post office operating many years before 1857, possibly before 1840.

NOTE OF PHILOTELIA: The conclusions arrived at by Mr. P. Binicos as regards the date of establishment of the post office of Bucharest find support in two photographs, published in No.370 issue of "Philotelia" (page 138), showing two covers of the pre-stamp period bearing the "button" type seal BOYKOYPEΣTH. These covers are part of the collection of the distinguished Lisbon collector Mr. Eduardo Cohen. A date is marked on each of these covers. The date at the upper right side of the first cover is: "1843". The one appearing at the upper left side of the second cover is : August 1852".

In "More notes on the prestamp period of the Greek button type postmark of Bucarest" published in Philotelia, Peter Binicos illustrated and described the above mentioned cover, sent from Athens to vice-consul Athanassiades, as follows: "Thus for the records, I would like to give below the actual information for this rare letter. It is a small letter carrying in the front the pre-stamp period postmark (Laurel type) ATHINAI 28 June 1843, colour blue-green. (No S10 Raftopoulos Catalog, and red Π.Ε.Δ (paid overseas dues). On the back is a large double-circle Laurel type prestamp postmark PYRAIEUS 28 June 1843, colour black, No. S3 Raftopoulos Catalog, and a transit button type postmark BOYKOYPEΣTH, colour deep violet (not blue as stated in the Argyropoulos article). The letter, in all probability, was dispatched by sea as far as Constantinople and from there to Bucarest through the Russian postal service by land. Another unreported detail is that the letter carries many small pointed incisions by metal pincers, done in a fumigating station either at Constantinople or Bucarest."



We do know that in many cities and towns of the then Ottoman Empire Greek post offices were functioning at the Greek Consulates from the 1840's, using either button type, numeral or dated postmarks. Hereby is a list of the Greek post offices abroad using official postmarks:

Alexandria-Tourkia, Arti, Arta-Tourkia, Volos, BOUKOURESTI, BOUKOURESTI-VLACHIA, GALATZION-MOLDAVIA, Thessaloniki, thessaloniki-Tourkia, IBRAILA-VLACHIA, Ioannina, Ioannina-Tourkia, Constantinoupolis-Tourkia, Larissa, Larissa-Tourkia, Preveza, Preveza-Tourkia, Smyrna-Tourkia, all in the prestamp period and SULINA-TOURKIA only in the postage stamp period.

Up to date I never heard or read about Royal Decrees for establishment of official post offices with the exception of those of GALATZ, IBRAILA, BUCAREST and SULINA.

In all the mentioned cities or towns - all in the Ottoman Empire - were Greek Consulates because of the large number of Greek nationals living there.

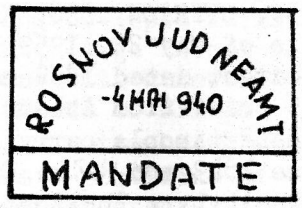
Any additional information regarding this subject will be welcomed by the author and the editor of this bulletin.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Emilios D. Xanthopoulos, past president of the Hellenic Philatelic Society of America, is also the author of a study published in 1968, in Greek and English, by the Philatelic Library of Athens on "Russian mail of the Monastic Cell of St. Chrysostomos in Mounth Athos.

Unusual Cancels, Part II, by Silviu Dragomir, Str. Popa Chiţu No.17, 70268 Bucharest, Romania.

MONEY ORDER CANCEL.

Following Dr. Robert Bell's articles on "Money Order Cancellations on Regular Mail" (No.1/1977) I would like to make known that I have in my collection tens of this type of cancels. Especially I want to present such a cancelmark with a totally different design from the others and withe the inscription: ROSNAV JUD NEAMT 4 MAI 940 MANDATE.



USUAL OR PUBLICITY CANCEL?

In Sibiu, during the National Jamboree, a double circle type cancelmark was used: SIBIU (on the top), JAMB. NAT. (on the bottom) and the date in the middle, (for example 22 IUL 932). Because of its usual format and without any additional inscriptions, it raises the question if it belongs to the usual cancels, or among the publicity cancels (slogan cancels).

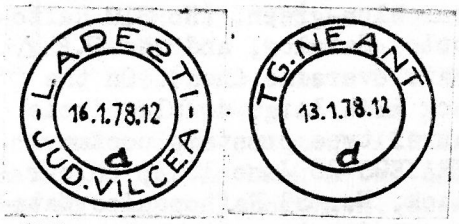
MARITIME AGENCY CANCEL.

The cancel presented herein is one of the many used by the S.M.R. (Societatea Maritima Romana) maritime line. Being an undated cancel, apparently rubber-made, I am inclined to believe that it belonged to S.M.R.'s agency in Istambul, and probably all other agencies had similar cancels for administrative use. This kind of cancelmark is often found on correspondence, because some senders probably wanted to "test" their presence in those localities. This is an abnormal use, and therefore these items should be catalogued in the "unusual" category (see "Curiosities and abnormities" by Silviu Dragomir, Filatelia, No.12/1977). Personally, I don't believe in the explanation given by Mr. Sassover (Filatelia, No.10/1977) stating that these cancels were applied in Constanta to mark the destination, since the cancel found by him (SMIRNA with date) could not be used in any other locality but at Smirna. I don't know of any cancels with date applied outside the inscribed locality.

ERRORS.

Dan-Mihai Belcea, a high school student in Bucharest, presented in the philatelic press (Filatelia, No.11/1977) the existence of some errors in inscriptions. One example given was the LADESTI cancel with the letter "S" turned around.

There are many such cases and they could form a new group in marcophily (the study of postal markings): the one of errors. I illustrate here such a cancel from TG. NEAMT, with the letter "M" replaced by an "N" making it TG. NEANT.



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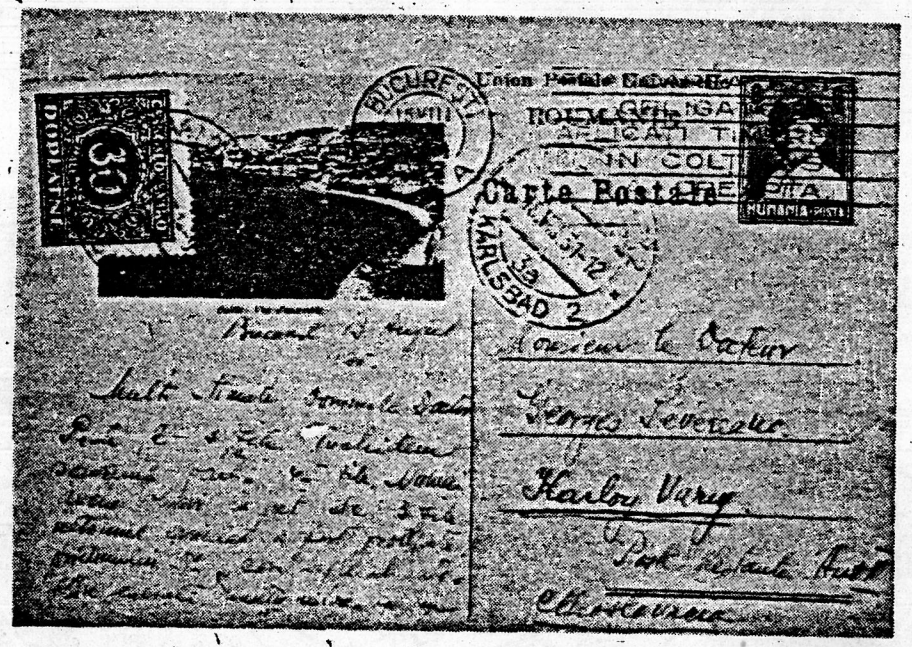
Reprinted from STAMP SHOW NEWS, May 1978.

Mixed Franking from Romania



illustrated type, U.P.U. card for international mail (H&G no. 82) with a 6 lei printed stamp. On arrival it had added a 30 haleru Czechoslovak postage due (DOPLATNE) stamp despite the fact that the postage rate for internationally mailed postal cards from 1926 to 1939 was 6 lei and this card was franked accordingly. In 1939 the rate went up to seven lei.

One possible explanation is that the card was addressed to POST RESTANTE (remaining mail) indicating that the card should be held at the post office until claimed by the addressee. Perhaps this was the reason for the extra charge which could have been a service charge instead of the usual postage due charges. If anybody has any other answer or even a justification for the above hypotehsis, a note will be appreciated to George Pataki, 34-24 76th Street, Jackson Heights, N.Y. 11372.

by George Pataki

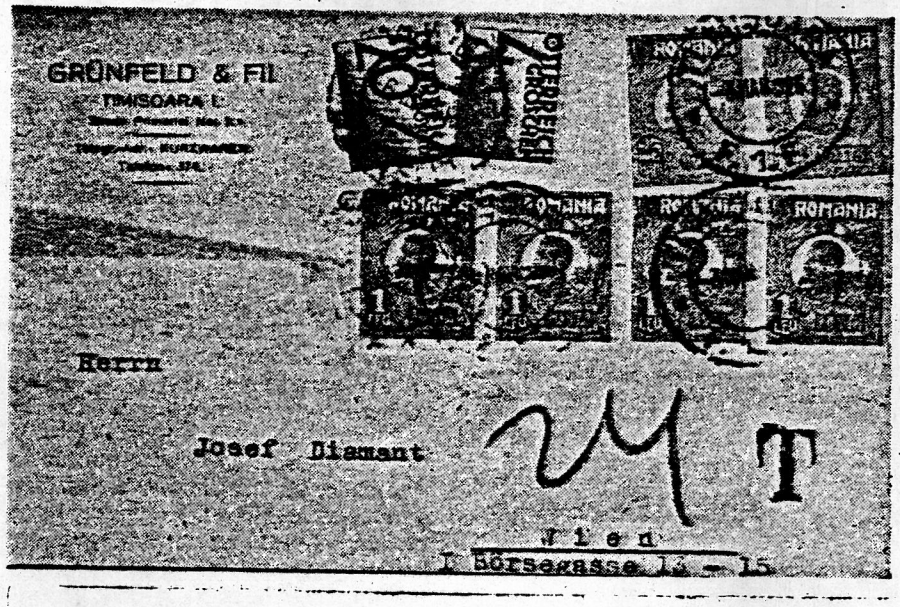
Covers and postal cards with postal markings of two or more countries is the general rule and is taken for granted when postal matter sent abroad has at least a departure cancel (of the country of origin) and an arrival cancel (of the country of destination). Sometimes, but not often, it even has a transit marking from a third country.

During certain time periods this rule was so common that when one of the postmark was missing from a card or a cover (usually the arrival marking), the item was considered incomplete.

Contrary to that, postal matter with stamps of more than one country are scarce and due to special circumstances. Perhaps the most common of the rare mixed frankings are created when an item is franked insufficiently in the country of origin and postage due stamps have to be added in the country of destination.

As an example we present a card mailed on March 3, 1926, from TIMISOARA, ROMANIA, to WIEN, AUSTRIA (arived on March 6, 1926), franked only with 4.50 lei, when the postage rate for international mail (postal cards) was 6 lei. It was stamped with a large letter T (about 10 x 12 mm) indicating "Postage Due" and marked with red pencil the number 24, and 24 groschen Austrian postage due stamps were added creating a mixed franking.

The second card is some kind of mystery; it was mailed on Aug. 15, 1931, from BUCURESTI, ROMANIA, to KARLOVY VARY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, where it arrived on Aug. 18, 1931. It is the semi-



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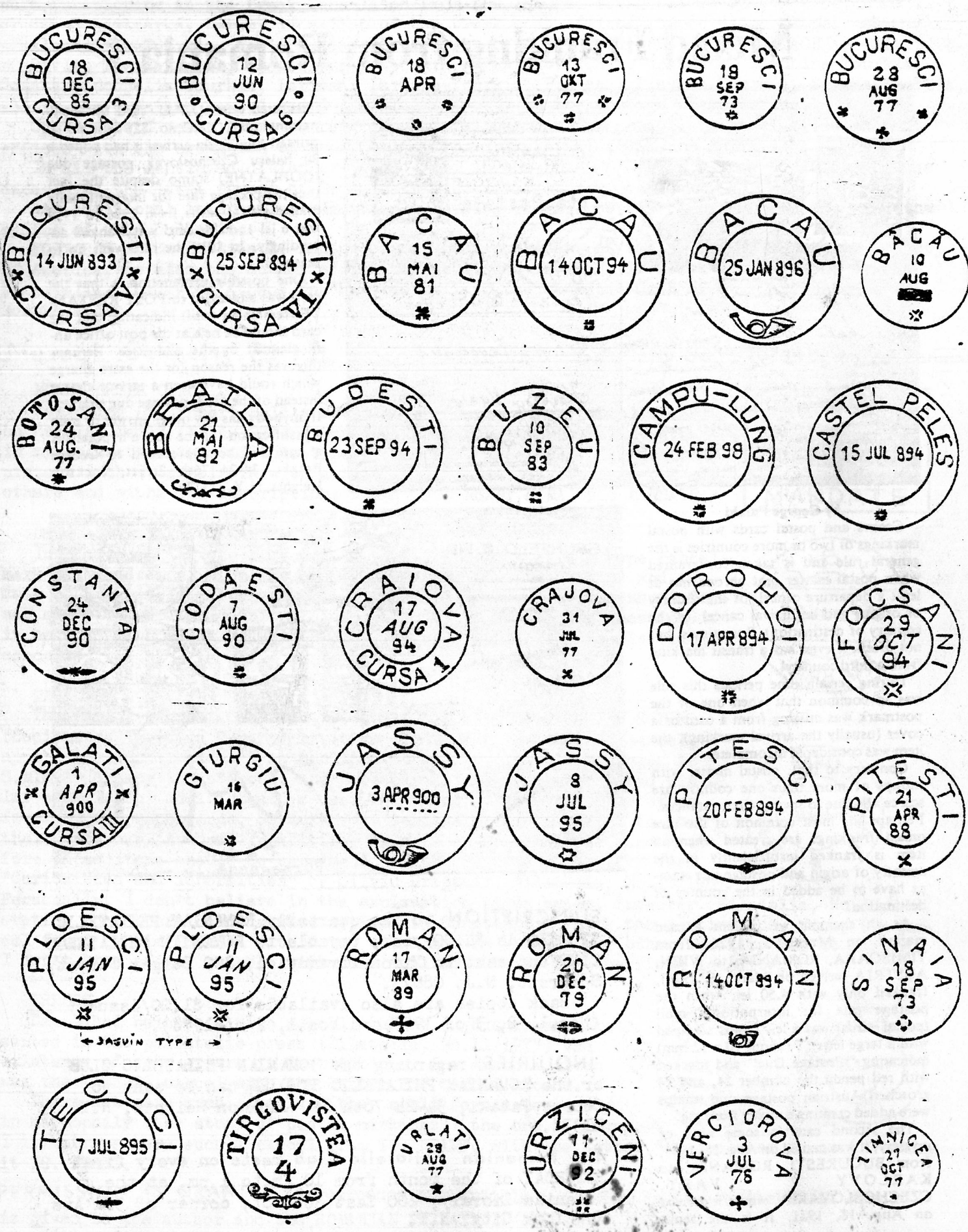
INQUIRIES regarding the ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB or the ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES can be sent to George Pataki, 34-24 76th St, Jackson Heights, N.Y. 11372.

The Romanian Philatelic Club meets on every first SATURDAY of the month from 10 am to 1 pm, at the Romanian Library, 200 East 38th St, corner of 3rd Ave, New York City, N.Y.

19th century Romanian cancelmarks, part II, by George Pataki,


BUCURESCI 18 DEC 85 CURSA 3
BUCURESCI 12 JUN 90 CURSA 6
BUCURESCI 18 APR
BUCURESCI 13 OKT 77
BUCURESCI 18 SEP 73
BUCURESCI 28 AUG 77
BUCURESTI CURSA I 14 JUN 893
BUCURESTI CURSA II 25 SEP 894
BACAU 15 MAI 81
BACAU 14 OCT 94
BACAU 25 JAN 896
BACAU 10 AUG
BOTOSANI 24 AUG. 77
BRAILA 21 MAI 82
BUDESTI 23 SEP 94
BUZEU 10 SEP 83
CAMPU-LUNG 24 FEB 98
CASTEL PELES 15 JUL 894
CONSTANTA 24 DEC 90
CODAESTI 7 AUG 90
CRAIOVA 17 AUG 94 CURSA 1
CRAJOVA 31 JUL 77
DOROHOI 17 APR 894
FOCSANI 29 OCT 94
GALATI 1 APR 900 CURSA III
GIURGIU 16 MAR
JASSY 3 APR 900
JASSY 8 JUL 95
PITESCI 20 FEB 894
PITESTI 21 APR 88
PLOESCI 11 JAN 95
PLOESCI 11 JAN 95
ROMAN 17 MAR 89
ROMAN 20 DEC 79
ROMAN 14 OCT 894
SINAIA 18 SEP 73
TECUCI 7 JUL 895
TIRGOVISTEA 17 4
URLATI 28 AUG 77
URZICENI 11 DEC 92
VERCIOROVA 3 JUL 78
ZIMNICEA 27 OCT 77

← JAGUIN TYPE →